

THE TIMES

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Tory Right battles for chance to beat Clarke

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FEROCIOUS battle is going on between the three right-wing Tory leadership contenders to let one take over the mantle of the Right to stop Kenneth Clarke or William Hague from winning.

Michael Howard, Peter Lilley and John Redwood agree that the Right has no chance of winning the election unless two of the three bow out after the first ballot which takes place tomorrow.

Lady Thatcher has also made clear to all three that only one of them should go forward for the second ballot. Her friends say that she is not backing William Hague and was disappointed by her meeting with him. But they claim that she will not support any of the three right-wingers, until they agree which one should go forward.

But Mr Howard, who appears to be emerging as the strongest of the three, is adamant that in "no foreseeable circumstances" will he make way for either of the others. He is now trying to get Mr Lilley to agree to deal that he should go forward to represent the Right, even if Mr Lilley does marginally better than him in the first ballot. In return he will offer him the post as Shadow Chancellor.

"I think it is certainly the case that whoever comes fourth or fifth are going to find it very difficult to imagine that they could go on to win subsequently," said Mr Lilley. "I would expect therefore they would stand down and I would appeal to a very large number of their supporters to come over to me."

Mr Lilley said in an interview on *Breakfast with Frost*. Asked whether he would step down if he was fourth or fifth, he declined to answer but a member of his campaign team agreed that he would.

Mr Howard's camp however suggest that their man should go forward irrespective of the result unless there is a "landslide" for Mr Lilley. They argue that their man is the only one who could beat Mr Clarke. One of Mr Howard's team, said that consideration should also be taken of MPs' second preferences. "Almost three quarters of John Redwood's supporters would come to us."

One of Mr Lilley's supporters conceded that he might rally to Mr Howard if the two have similar votes in the first ballot, even if the former Social Security Secretary does better. But his campaign team dismissed this as nonsense saying that Mr Lilley expected whoever came third to go through as a unity candidate.

Mr Howard insisted last night

that he should be the clear challenger to Mr Clarke. "The breadth of my support indicates that I am best placed to unify the party and win in the later rounds. I therefore hope that Peter Lilley and John Redwood will support me after the first ballot."

Mr Redwood strongly denied suggestions that he was trailing behind the other two and indicated that he had no intention of dropping out whatever the result. "I intend to carry on because I think the party has to make a decision," he told Sky News's *Sunday*.

Meanwhile Mr Clarke said that even if the three right-wingers lined up against him, not all their supporters would necessarily follow. "There are not blocs of marshalled voters being led by one person who can turn round to them and tell them to vote for somebody else," he told BBC's *On the Record*.

He said that the leadership ballot would not end the internal party debate on Europe and made it clear that he rejected Mr Redwood's demand that anyone who served in a Shadow Cabinet led by him would have to accept the Tories would never take Britain into a single currency.

But he risked alienating Eurosceptics by refusing to give a commitment that he would hold a referendum on a single currency if he became Prime Minister. He insisted that the manifesto commitment to a referendum only referred to the current Parliament.

Technically all five contenders could go through to the second ballot which is contested next Tuesday, June 17, but only two can go forward in a third ballot, which would take place on June 19.

Toast of Westminster, page 6
Letters, page 21



Howard: trying to get Lilley to do a deal

'Rebel warriors rush to kill me'

I AM alone on a deserted jungle airstrip in Sierra Leone, covered in petrol, \$3,000 in cash stuffed down my crutch, and expensive satellite equipment at my feet. The helicopter that dropped me in this lonely place has long since gone.

Of the Nigerian force anticipated to secure the landing strip there is no sign. For a moment I think that this is as bad as things can get. Then scores of warriors emerge from the jungle, clad in rags and leaves, and armed with everything from machetes to assault rifles and rocket grenades. They are fighters from the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) who have formed a new alliance with Sierra Leone's military coup leaders after six years of bush war.



Moments after landing at a Sierra Leone jungle air strip, Anthony Loyd was attacked by warriors armed with machetes, rifles and rockets

Wide-eyed and whooping they run upon me. I have nowhere to escape and for a second I feel as if I have walked by accident and in solitude onto the set of *Zulu Dawn*. I remember the warnings of the West African economic co-operation group (Ecomog) offices in Liberia who made me sign a waiver on my life before I could board their helicopter to this destination. I remember the aircraft's strange crew: the three Russians and the American. I remember the way the Nigerian troops had drawn lots amongst themselves in Liberia to select the two accompanying troops; the panic in these two men's eyes as we landed; their relief as they left. I had barely hit the ground after the first rifle blow to my head from the RUF when a ring is ripped



Players salute Darren Gough for taking the wicket of Mark Waugh as England scent victory with one full day to spare

England favourites for the Ashes

BY ALAN LEE

AFTER a victory as emphatic and significant as any in England's erratic recent past, the Ashes — still the gauge of this country's cricketing fortunes — are once more attainable.

The bookmakers responded last night by making England even-money favourites to win the series. England won the first of the six Tests by nine wickets at Edgbaston thereby taking the lead in an Ashes series after a decade of Australian supremacy that has seen England

claim only two victories against 14. The crowd, close to capacity for the fourth successive day, joyfully invaded the field after Michael Atherton, the captain, and Alec Stewart had swept England to the win with an unbroken partnership of 90 from only 18 overs.

Atherton, whose abiding ambition is to beat Australia after being part of four resounding series defeats, finished unbeaten on 57 and passed 5,000 Test runs.

"We have felt for some time that we have been on the up," he said. "To beat Australia is a real feather

in our cap." England had dictated the game from the outset, taking eight Australian wickets for 54 in an astonishing first session last Thursday. They built a first-innings lead of 360 with more than half the playing hours still available but were then held up as Australia fought back.

Mark Taylor, whose place as Australia's captain was at risk after a string of low scores, preserved his own future with 129 and there was a further century from Greg

Blewett, who has now scored hundreds in each of his three Ashes Tests.

But with three wickets each for the two outstanding characters of their rebuild side, Darren Gough and Robert Croft, England finally dismissed Australia for 477 to leave a winning target of 118.

The England team is likely to be kept together for the second Test, which starts at Lord's on Thursday.

Match report, pages 25, 27

Ahern plans a minority Government

BY AUDREY MAGEE

BERTIE AHERN, the leader of Fianna Fail, will be the next Irish Prime Minister after his political opponents conceded defeat last night.

Fianna Fail won 77 seats in the 166-seat Dail, the party's best result in eight years. But Mr Ahern will form a coalition with the small Progressive Democrats, led by Mary Harney. Sinn Fein's first MP in the Irish Republic in 40 years could play a pivotal role.

Ahern triumph, page 2
Leading article, page 21



"Wonderful news! I've managed to buy tickets for the fifth day."

Opposition help

Civil servants are to be seconded to the Opposition to enable the leader and other frontbenchers to be better briefed for Commons debates and to undertake their parliamentary duties more effectively. Page 5

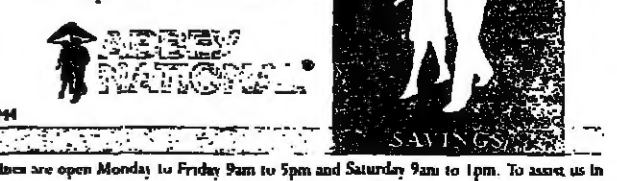
Paedophile fears

The Government is to produce guidelines for police dealing with paedophiles after officers expressed concern at the imminent release of a child attacker. Page 4

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Fianna Fail success will delight Sinn Fein and unsettle Unionists

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

BERTIE AHERN'S narrow success in the Irish general election will herald a radical overhaul of Dublin's approach to Northern Ireland that will delight nationalists and unsettle Unionists.

The Fianna Fail leader made clear during the election campaign that he would be battling strongly on behalf of nationalists as Taoiseach. In a bitter exchange with John Bruton, the Fine Gael leader, Mr Ahern criticised his opponent for going soft on Union-

ists and the British Government while in office.

A Fianna Fail-led Government will have no qualms about criticising Unionists if ministers believe that they are holding up progress at the multiparty talks at Stormont. Mr Ahern will also press Britain hard to grant a series of concessions to Sinn Fein, such as providing a cast-iron guarantee of a place at talks soon after an IRA ceasefire.

Mr Ahern underlined his new approach yesterday when he said he would meet Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, within days. However the Fianna Fail leader

made clear that he would use the meeting to insist the IRA must declare a ceasefire. His statement, which would have been unthinkable under Mr Bruton, was carefully crafted to try to wean Sinn Fein down the political path without appearing to condone IRA violence.

Mr Ahern's strongly pro-nationalist stance derives from the historical roots of Fianna Fail. The party was founded in the mid-1920s by Eamon De Valera from the remnants of the IRA faction that fought and lost the Irish Civil War of 1922-23 over its opposition to the partition of Ireland. Although

Fianna Fail has progressed considerably since its early days — most notably by embracing the principle of consent over Northern Ireland — there is still a strongly republican streak within the party which blames Britain's handling of Northern Ireland for the collapse of the IRA ceasefire.

Northern Ireland will provide one of the most difficult areas for Mr Ahern in balancing his coalition Government because his potential partners have widely differing views. The small Progressive Democrats, which broke away from Fianna Fail in the mid-1980s

partly because of the party's republicanism, will push Mr Ahern to adopt an even-handed approach to Northern Ireland. However Mr Ahern will face pressure from a small number of fiercely republican independent TDs (MPs) whose parliamentary support will be crucial to his survival.

Harry Blaney, who was elected in Donegal North East, a constituency that runs along the border with Northern Ireland, hopes to form a republican block with Caoimhghin O Caolain, the new Sinn Fein TD, and Jackie Healy-Rae, the independent Fianna Fail

TD for South Kerry. Mr Blaney said: "We'll be the republican boys. We'll all be at one on knowing what's needed — and that's a British declaration of intent to withdraw."

His remarks filled Unionists with horror yesterday as they mourned the departure of John Bruton — their greatest-ever friend in Dublin — and braced for a Fianna Fail Government. One senior Ulster Unionist said his party had blown its chances of improving relations with the Irish Republic after spurning Mr Bruton's conciliatory approach

while he was in office. The source said: "John Bruton was the best friend we have ever had in Dublin and we threw it away. That is a pity."

Steering Mr Ahern around the minefield of Northern Ireland will be a figure who played a pivotal role in Anglo-Irish relations when Fianna Fail was last in power between 1987-94.

Martin Mansergh, a Protestant with Anglo-Irish roots, led Fianna Fail's early talks with Sinn Fein in the late 1980s and helped to draw up the 1993 Downing Street Declaration.

Ireland faces turmoil as Ahern seeks a majority

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND faces weeks of political instability as Bertie Ahern, the Fianna Fail leader, tries to cobble together a working majority that will elect him as Prime Minister.

Mr Ahern is two seats short of an overall majority of 83 following the collapse of support for the Progressive Democrats, his right-wing coalition partners who yesterday ended up with only four seats. It is less than they had been predicting at the outset of the election to campaign. Mary Harney, the Democrats' leader, and Des O'Malley, the party's founder, struggled to retain their seats. Michael McDowell, the party's strategist, was defeated by Green Party candidate, John Gormley. A recount was undertaken in Mr McDowell's constituency last night.

But the electorate also swung strongly against left-wing parties, opting instead for the old Irish civil war allegiances of Fianna Fail or Fine Gael, who respectively won 77 and 54 of the 166 seats available.

Labour, Progressive Democrats and Democratic Left were squeezed out as some voters turned in protest to Sinn Fein, left-wing parties, the Greens and Independents, who between them secured 15 per cent of the vote. Six independents were elected, many of them single-issue candidates, including Thomas Gillea who is demanding cheap-rate British television for Donegal.

Fianna Fail's share of the vote increased by only 0.2 per cent to 39.3 per cent, rendering it one of the worst results for the republican and conservative party. Fine Gael increased its share of the vote by 3.4 per cent to 27.9 per cent — a good result but still a far cry from 1982 when, under the leadership of Garret Fitzgerald, the

party won 70 seats. Mr Ahern said yesterday that the Progressive Democrats' right-wing policies of 25,000 job cuts in the public sector, amendments in payments to single mothers and plans for water charges had not endeared Ms Harney and her party to the electorate.

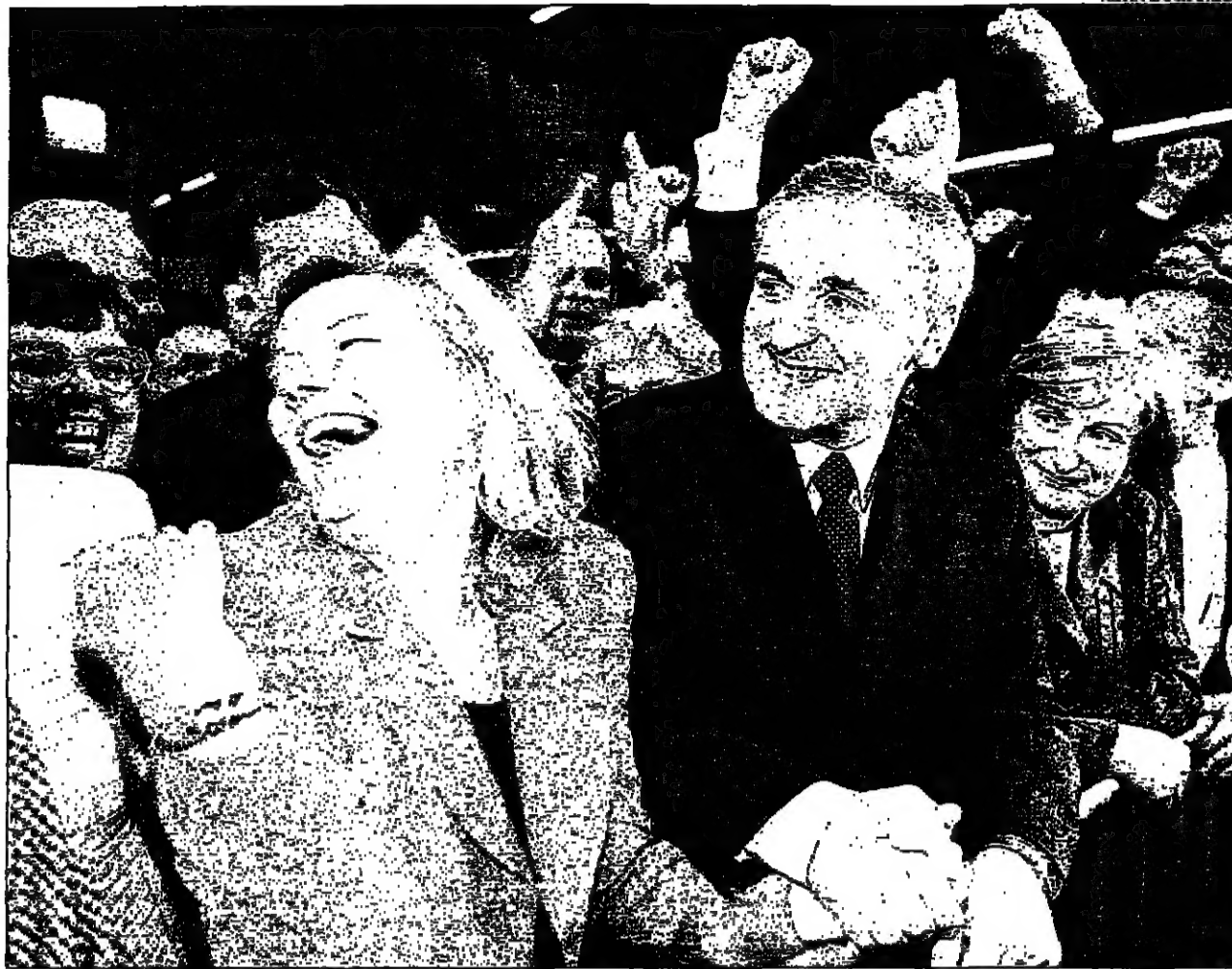
He said, however, that he would honour his pre-election commitment and form a government with Ms Harney, although she is unlikely to become deputy prime minister as originally anticipated.

But Mr Ahern faces difficulty. He can enter government as a minority coalition, depending when necessary on independents such as Jackie Healy-Rae of South Kerry and Harry Blaney of Donegal North East. They may also enter negotiations to form a government with Mr Blaney and Mr Healy-Rae or opt to include the Green Party who won two seats in Dublin.

The negotiations will come at a high price, however. Mr Healy-Rae has already outlined that he will support Mr Ahern if he receives a promise of heavy investment in roads and jobs for his constituency. Labour ended up with just 17 MPs, losing a number of high-profile names, including the Education Minister Niamh Breathnach and the junior Foreign Minister Joan Burton who topped the Dublin West poll in 1992.

The collapse was blamed on the 1992 decision to go into government with Fianna Fail about whom Dick Spring, the party leader, had been virilic while in opposition. Mr Spring said yesterday that Labour would go into opposition and tackle the Government, rather than repeat the mistake of 1992.

Leading article, page 21



Bertie Ahern, the Fianna Fail leader, with his partner Celia Larkin at the count in Dublin on Saturday night

Acceptance of leader's love life reflects change in Irish society

By AUDREY MAGEE

BERTIE AHERN would be the first Prime Minister of Ireland who is separated from his wife and living with another woman.

If he becomes Taoiseach, the electoral success of the 45-year-old leader of Fianna Fail will be testimony to a huge shift in Roman Catholic Ireland's attitudes to marriage and relationships. Only six years ago, Mr Ahern failed to take the leadership of his party because of disquiet over his marital status.

Now, as the most popular politician in the country, Mr Ahern says that his current relationship is no longer an issue. He turned up at the count in Dublin with his partner, Celia Larkin, on Saturday night, and they posed

for photographers. He told *The Times* that he had made his relationship public seven or eight years ago. "Thousands of people are separated in this country. It is not as easy as Britain where half of the House of Commons is divorced and on their second marriage."

Fine Gael, the main party in the previous government, raised the issue of marital status at the start of the three-week election campaign when it produced leaflets showing the Taoiseach, John Bruton, with his wife Finola in the foreground. Mr and Mrs Bruton and Fine Gael denied trying to capitalise on Mr Ahern's long-standing separation with Ms Larkin, a 37-year-old Fianna Fail party worker.

But on the streets the Fine

Gael leaflets raised the hackles of some supporters. Nora Murphy, a 72-year-old grandmother from Ballintubber, Co Mayo, claimed that Fine Gael was wrong to try to score points on Mr Ahern's personal relationships. She said: "There are thousands and thousands of people who are separated now, even in small towns like this. We are all at it and I don't believe that it makes any difference any more whether you are married, separated or living with someone."

The psychiatrist Anthony Clare said that Irish morals had changed enormously over the past 20 years with the secularisation of society and the decreasing power of the Catholic Church. Divorce had now become legal. He said: "I think that there would be an interest in Ms Larkin if Bertie

Ahern took her to international events but no more than there would be in Finola Bruton. I don't think that it would cause any great stir. Things have changed too much."

Professor Clare, who is medical director of St Patrick's Hospital in Dublin, said that Mr Ahern had broken the mould in Fianna Fail by becoming the first separated person to lead the party.

"Fianna Fail is the most difficult party to make that kind of change in because of their republicanism and conservatism 'with a small c', he said. "But that generation of green republicans and Catholic conservatives is part of an older generation that is on the way out. It will be quite a landmark of change if he does become Taoiseach."

Cook's EMU doubts

Robin Cook claimed that recent events in Germany and France had made it much less likely that a European single currency would go ahead in 1999. The Foreign Secretary warned against easing any of the economic criteria for EU countries to join monetary union and implied that the recent dispute between the Bundesbank and the German Government had raised "significant questions" as to whether the 1999 timetable could be reached.

On BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* he confirmed that it was unlikely that Britain would want to join in the first wave, but he now considered it less than 50/50 that EMU would start before the end of the century. "The last week has raised some very significant questions in the minds of politicians on the Continent and commentators in this country."

Synod attack on royals

Church attendance by members of the Royal Family is to be criticised at the General Synod's meeting in York next month. Philip Gore, a lay member of the synod, claims the public feels let down by the royals' example. Mr Gore's question for the meeting reads: "During this decade of evangelism, what consideration has been given to encourage members of the Royal Family and senior politicians to attend public worship on Sundays?"

BA counters strike threat

A network of secret training centres based at regional airports and RAF airfields has been set up by British Airways in an attempt to break a threatened strike which could hit flights this summer. Managers and volunteers have been sent on intensive courses in cargo handling, baggage loading, check-in and other ground handling services in an attempt to keep the airline flying if two threatened strikes go ahead in mid-July.

'Mad chickens' inquiry

The Ministry of Agriculture is to call in an outside expert to examine claims that "mad cow" disease may have spread to chickens, assumed hitherto to be immune to infection. If poultry are susceptible to the disease, it would be a further blow to the meat industry, which was shaken last week by the Ministry of Agriculture's decision to extend controls on BSE from cattle to sheep.

MoD may ban hunting

Fox-hunting could be banned from more than half a million acres of Ministry of Defence land after a review of policy announced yesterday. A ban would affect around 60 hunts and force a dozen to close. The British Field Sports Society claimed. A ministry spokeswoman confirmed: "It is our intention to carry out a thorough review of the effectiveness of hunting with hounds."

Prince to pay for cruise

The Prince of Wales is to pay for taking guests on a cruise on the Royal Yacht *Britannia* within hours of the Hong Kong handover. Buckingham Palace said. The announcement follows claims of friction between the Prince and the Queen over his plans to ask friends aboard so soon after the ceremony. The Prince is planning a three-day trip to the Philippines, where he will carry out an official visit on July 3.

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Prescott takes plunge into murky waters

By PAUL WILKINSON

JOHN PRESCOTT yesterday found the waters off the Northumberland coast as murky as anything he might have come across in a lifetime in politics. A swim in an undersea nature reserve to mark World Oceans Day had to be cut short because of poor visibility.

An accomplished scuba diver, the Deputy Prime Minister cracked jokes with watching reporters and sightseers as he swapped his dogtooth check

jacket and black slacks for a black neoprene suit.

"Imagine if fish had to go through this trouble every day," he quipped as he wriggled into his flippers. "Politics is a bit like diving really. You just have to make sure you are going in the right direction."

After 10 minutes swimming about seven metres under the surf, accompanied by members of the Newcastle Diving Centre, Mr Prescott emerged to say he was delighted to be able to champion measures to protect the oceans.

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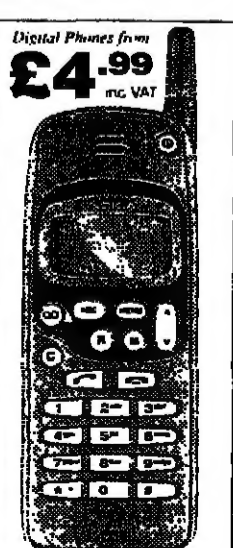
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LEGAL & GENERAL

Baby poisoned in womb faces a life sentence

BY LIN JENKINS

A BABY faces a lifetime of disability after his mother was taken ill with salmonella poisoning at a wedding reception while pregnant. Ned Whateley was born prematurely shortly after the wedding party, weighed just 1lb 7oz and was not expected to live.

Doctors blame the food poisoning contracted by his mother for arresting the baby's growth in the womb and yet his parents cannot seek compensation as the chef had apparently not taken out public liability insurance.

Ned, now 18 months old, is the most seriously affected but more than three quarters of the 224 guests were sick after the lavish party in August 1995. The newlyweds had to cancel their honeymoon in the Bahamas after the groom was violently ill on the flight.

Adam Baxter, the chef responsible for leaving food unrefrigerated for four hours on one of the hottest days of the year, is serving a four-month jail term. Insurance for the poolside reception would have cost him about £50.

The couple whose wedding

day was blighted by the salmonella outbreak, Neil and Fiona Morgan, say they still intend to pursue Baxter for compensation, although they are unsure what sanctions are open to them. Baxter, who had previously worked for the Saudi Royal Family, catered for the reception in the seven-acre grounds of Mr Morgan's mock-Tudor home at Sissinghurst in Kent.

The guests had sipped champagne listening to a jazzband and cooled off in the pool owned by the property developer while the banquet was left covered in clingfilm in a marquee. Baxter had made the mayonnaise using raw eggs and olive oil. He had used it on the prawns for the starters and in the coleslaw. He was paid £4,785 for providing the food.

Adam Whateley is critical of Baxter's negligence and the fact that he cannot sue for the medical damage done to his son. "It was caused by a complete idiot who did not do his job properly — just blatant irresponsible behaviour. It is excellent that he went to

prison. People must realise that they must take responsibility for their actions. Ned's life will always be tainted because of one person's action," he said.

Mr Whateley, of Romsey, Hampshire, is a technical manager for the fresh fruit company Pydies and travels the world checking that suppliers comply with food safety and hygiene standards. His wife, Melanie, 32, who is a photographer specialising in child portraits, recalls how she was particularly careful about what she ate at the Morgans' wedding as she was six months pregnant with her second child.

She had taken heed of pamphlets from her local health education authority about her diet and said: "I remember being cautious, thinking that the mayonnaise would be homemade, so I didn't eat it or the fish starter." Hours after the reception ended Mrs Whateley became violently ill.

Ned was born so premature that doctors are concerned his lungs may never properly develop. Mrs Whateley said: "The doctors have all said that my very high temperature with the salmonella poisoning put my body into shock and that is why he stopped growing. All his current problems stem from his prematurity. He has chronic lung disease because of his ill-formed lungs, is permanently on oxygen, has to be nebulised three times a day and will always have problems."

Her son was born less than a month after the wedding party and delivered by emergency Caesarean section at the Queen Charlotte Hospital in London, then immediately moved to Great Ormond Street for specialist care. Doctors gave him so little hope of survival that they asked the parents to name him.

Mr Whateley remembers that the tag around his son's wrist was so small that there was only room for him to write three letters, so he and his wife chose the name Ned.



Adam and Melanie Whateley: cannot seek damages

Parents in search for daughter

THE parents of Melanie Hall, who disappeared a year ago after leaving a Bath nightclub, are making a new plea today for help in finding her (Stewart Tendler writes). Pat and Steve Hall visited the Cadillacs club in the city at the weekend and asked young people to help the police with the search. They fear that she has been killed.

Miss Hall, 25, a psychology graduate, vanished after a night out with her boyfriend and another couple last year. She is thought to have left the club separately, after a misunderstanding with Philip Karbaum, who had recently started going out with her. On Saturday night, her parents, who live just outside Bath, handed out posters to club-goers saying: "Someone in and around Bath knows what happened to her. Our lives and those of our family have been shattered. We are desperate for information." Plain-clothes police officers, friends, and Miss Hall's sister helped to hand out the posters bearing the missing woman's photograph.

JP defends jail remand for girl

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A MAGISTRATE who remanded a disturbed 12-year-old girl to an adult prison said yesterday that he had nowhere else to send her. Malcolm Hartley, a magistrate on the Isle of Man, expressed regret that the girl is being kept in a wing of Douglas prison, where she may stay until Wednesday.

The girl's mother has already protested and claims her daughter was born with spina bifida. There are no physical symptoms, and officials say she does not suffer from the illness. They acknowledge that she has learning difficulties.

On mainland Britain a child aged 15 or under could not be sent to prison. They would go either to a local authority unit or a Home Office establishment. A remand in custody could also be challenged before a judge.

As criminal justice reformers accused the Manx system of being barbaric, Mr Hartley said the island had no other

secure facilities for children. Manx law allowed a child to be kept in prison in exceptional circumstances.

The child appeared before Mr Hartley last Tuesday accused of assaulting a male police officer and criminal damage. She is under the care of Manx social services and living in a children's home on the island.

He said: "I have three children and many grandchildren — including a grandson the same age — and I did not take the decision to send her to the juvenile unit lightly."

Mr Hartley, a member of the prison board, said he was happy that the girl would be properly cared for in a modern women's unit with specially-trained staff. She will be in an adult cell from 8pm to 8am. Parents are allowed to visit every day.

But Terence Macdonald, for Manx social services, called upon the authorities to find alternative accommodation immediately.

MCC members fear Lord's Internet deal is not cricket

BY MARK HENDERSON

MUTTERINGS of disquiet from the Long Room at Lord's have greeted an announcement that the headquarters of cricket is to be launched on the Internet with the help of Microsoft, the computer software company.

A deal between Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), which owns the famous ground in north London, and Microsoft has raised speculation that it is being lined up to replace Benson and Hedges as a limited-overs sponsor if the Government bans cigarette advertising.

Some MCC members object because the new website (<http://www.lords.org>) features sponsorship of the Lord's name. Thomas Lord gave his name to the famous ground in the 1780s and members feel that no company

should be allowed to use it to promote their products. "I'm very dubious about the idea," said David Longrigg, an MCC member from London. "Lord's is like the Buckingham Palace of cricket, and they don't have sponsors there."

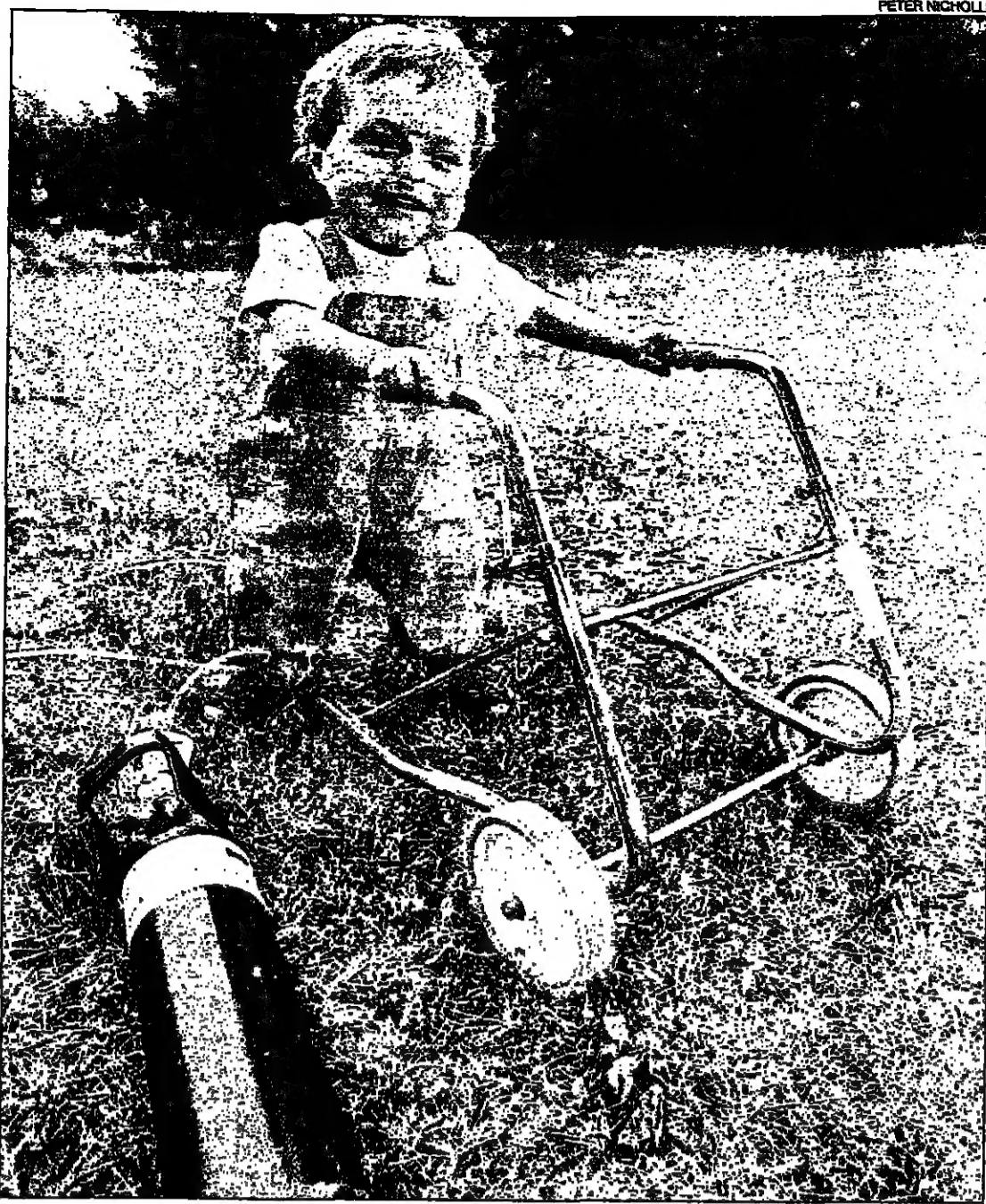
Other members felt the MCC and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), which is also supporting the project, risked diluting the sport's traditions. "No company, however noble or well-known, can hope to uphold the spirit of the place," Nigel Turner, from Uxbridge, said. "They can do what they like at the Oval, but Lord's is special."

Surrey's ground in Kennington, south London, is now known as the Foster's Oval, but the MCC has always felt it inappropriate to pursue a similar deal for Lord's. The

MCC has no plans to introduce a full ground sponsorship scheme, but traditionalists are concerned that the Microsoft deal sets an alarming precedent.

The MCC would not comment on the sponsorship agreement ahead of the launch later this week. Richard Little of the ECB said the new website would be an exciting new resource for cricket fans that was long overdue. "Cricket is less well served than other sports on the Internet and this will help to close the gap," he said. The site, operated by Microsoft Network, will feature a real-time scoreboard of all the action at Lord's, and in Test matches, archives and ticket information.

Cricket, pages 25-29



Doctors did not expect Ned Whateley to live after he was born prematurely, weighing 1lb 7oz

Food sickness cases rise to record levels

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

CASES of food poisoning have gone up by more than 400 per cent in the past decade and are running at record levels, despite government-backed attempts to improve hygiene and alert the public to the dangers.

Provisional figures for 1996 show that 84,348 people in England and Wales, and a further 4,940 in Scotland (including nearly 500 affected by the E. coli outbreak), fell ill after eating contaminated food.

In 1985 the comparable figures were 19,242 and 1,946, according to the Public Health Laboratory Service. There has been a steady year-on-year increase since then, with the rising trend showing signs of flattening out only in the past three years.

These statistics record only people who feel sick enough to go to a doctor and have specimens sent for analysis. In a poll conducted for the Food and Drink Federation in 1996, 6 per cent of adults (about three million people) claimed to have felt unwell at least once during the year after eating food.

Starting today, the federation is organising the fifth National Food Safety Week. Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, and Jeff Rooker, the Minister for Food Safety, will take part in a hand-washing demonstration in Covent Garden to emphasise personal hygiene.

The campaign has drawn criticism from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, representing local authority environmental health officers. David Statham, chairman of the its food committee, said: "We felt there was too much focus on the failings of the consumer and not enough on the need for the industry to clean up its act right across the board, from the farm, through slaughterhouses and processing plants to the retailer."

Although salmonella still catches the headlines, the top food germ, in terms of the number of victims it claims, is the less well known campylobacter, which began to overtake salmonella in the late 1980s as the biggest bacterial cause of diarrhoea. Last year, campylobacter accounted for 43,240 food poisoning cases, 51 per cent of the total.

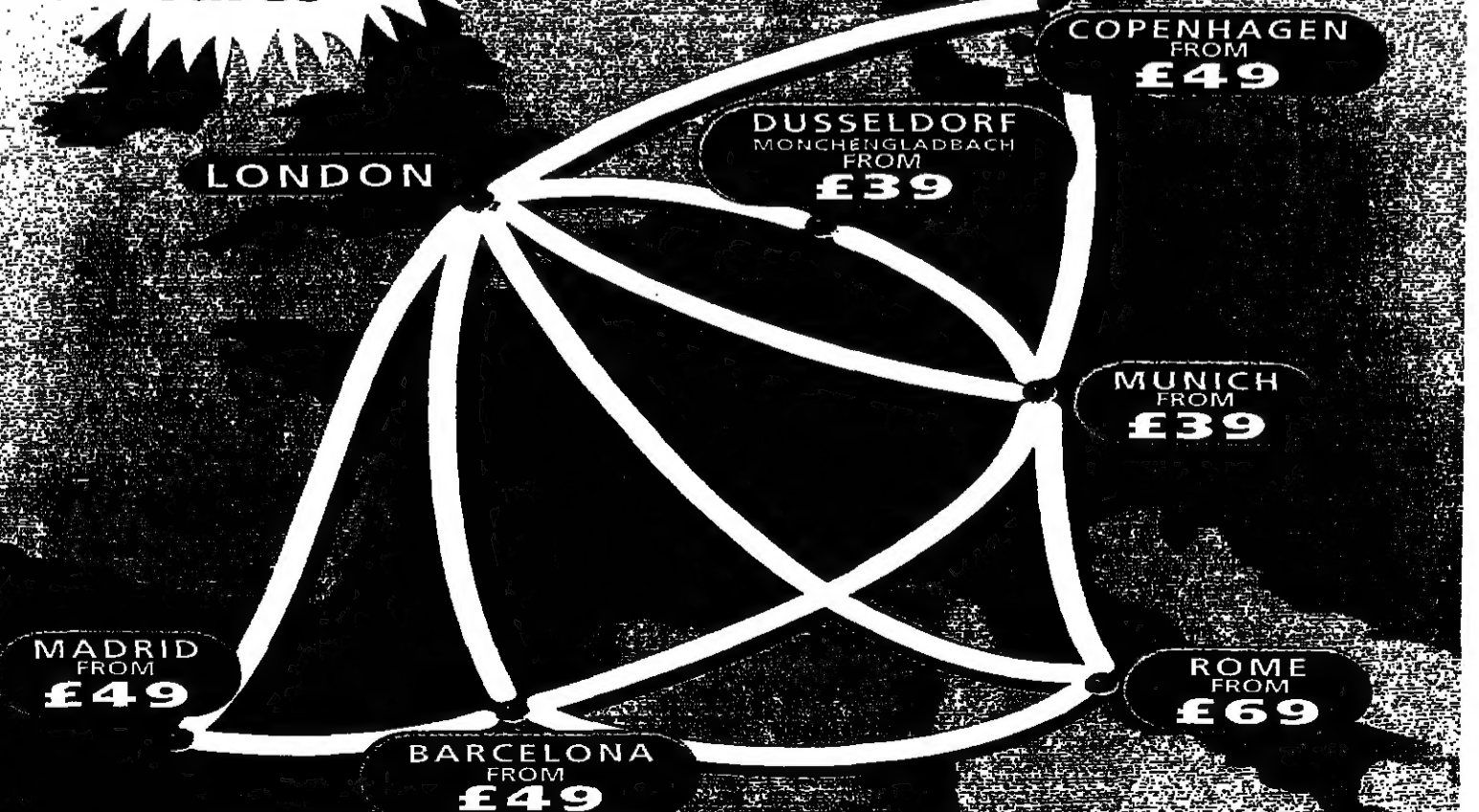
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Police urge new rules on release of paedophiles

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Government is to produce new guidelines for police dealing with paedophiles after senior officers on Merseyside expressed concern at the imminent release of a child abuser.

The 43-year-old convicted paedophile is currently being detained in a mental hospital for 28 days under the Mental Health Act, but is due for release this week.

The man, who has not been named by police, is from Manchester. In 1990 he was sentenced at Manchester Crown Court to nine years' imprisonment for the rape of a 10-year-old girl.

He was released last year.

Malcolm Savidge, the MP for Aberdeen North, pleaded for calm after a vigilante mob hunting sex offenders smashed up houses on a council estate in the city. Two men fled from one of the houses. Police said that neither of the men had any history of sexual assault and that they were not being investigated. Mr Savidge said: "We do not want mob rule. We want the rule of law."

after serving only six years of his sentence, changed his name and moved to a hostel in the Huyton district of Liverpool. He will be released from the Scott Clinic, a psychiatric centre in Rainhill, Merseyside, within the next week if doctors decide he cannot benefit from further treatment.

Officers arrested him a month ago for a breach of the peace when he was allegedly found to be carrying a bag of toys and colouring books. They say that, beyond mounting expensive and impractical 24-hour surveillance, they are powerless to intervene.

In a separate matter, two convicted paedophiles living in a North Wales holiday resort have been granted legal aid to challenge a police

decision to warn people of their presence.

Alun Michael, a Home Office Minister, yesterday promised detailed guidance for police forces on how to implement the Sex Offenders Act 1997, which allows for the creation of a national paedophile register. He said: "We are going to make sure that the legislation will be used to protect children and not get tied up in bureaucratic problems."

The complaints from Merseyside Police have added a new urgency to the search for a workable public policy. Detective Chief Inspector Paul Evans, of Merseyside Police, said: "We have an incredibly dangerous man in the community but we are reduced to putting him under full-time surveillance. There is no preventative detention under the Mental Health Act."

"He is now being assessed but he would only be detained if treatment is likely to alleviate his condition. He needs to be a danger to society. Legislation was changed with the 1989 Mental Health Act which left a huge loophole. This matter needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency."

Eddie O'Hara, MP for Knowsley South, said vigilante gangs in Merseyside had already attacked several men they believed to be the paedophile. The MP plans to table an early day motion in the Commons on Tuesday and will be lobbying ministers for tighter controls. He said: "It is utterly unacceptable that the police cannot do anything about this. My concern now is that another child's life may be destroyed when this man is released."

The Sex Offenders Act, which received Royal Assent in March, requires anyone convicted or cautioned for child-sex offences to keep police informed of their addresses and the maximum penalty for failing to do so is six months imprisonment.



Army engineers recovering the last, and biggest, of four prototypes of the famous dambusting bombs tested more than 50 years ago off Reculver in Kent. It was rolled ashore and winched up the beach by bulldozer in an operation watched by Barnes Wallis, son of the inventor of the bouncing bombs

Widow puts Perry trophies on sale

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE trophies won by Fred Perry, Britain's greatest tennis player, have been withdrawn from the Wimbledon Museum by his widow and put up for auction in an acrimonious dispute with the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

Bobby Perry, 78, plans to sell her husband's memorabilia, which had been on loan to the museum for 20 years, at Christie's shortly before the start of the Wimbledon championships. They are expected to raise £250,000.

Mrs Perry, the fourth wife of the tennis player, who died aged 85 in 1985, said the move would "serve them right". She said: "I have no qualms about the auction. I don't feel I owe them anything."

Valerie Warren, curator of the museum, which declined an offer to buy the trophies and was said to have "had a fit" over their withdrawal, will attend the auction on June 20.

Chris Goringe, chief executive of the All England Club, said: "We shall be very sorry if any of the items which have been on loan are lost. The

museum will attend the auction with a view to purchase."

Perry won three successive Wimbledon titles in 1934-36, three US titles, the Australian and French, but felt snubbed when the club removed his membership after he turned professional. His widow says she has to fight to obtain Wimbledon tickets and that the trophies had been loaned only because of the high cost of insurance and cleaning.

French Open, page 31



Perry: trophies were on show at Wimbledon

Yard to get healthy tips on funding

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD has chosen a 30-year-old hospital fundraiser to lead its search for £17 million in sponsorship deals from big business.

Emma Finn, who organises appeals for the Royal Hospital for Neurodisability in Putney, west London, will head the largest police drive for private cash in the country. Senior Yard officials believe the Yard's name could be exploited to produce extra cash to fight crime.

The Metropolitan Police is one of a dozen forces using new legislation to raise up to 1 per cent of their budgets each year from companies. Harrods already provides the Yard with a car for special constables and other companies have contributed to crime-fighting projects.

Last month leaders of the Police Federation warned of the dangers of a world of "logo cops", where officers carried the names of sponsoring companies, but Miss Finn said her job would include protecting police interests and preventing exploitation.

Gun club members aim to continue shooting abroad

By MARK HENDERSON

GUN clubs and shooters' rights groups are setting up offshore handgun ranges and organising shooting holidays abroad to allow their members to continue shooting when the ban on handguns above .22 in calibre comes into effect in July.

British shooters are already taking day trips to gun clubs in northern France and Belgium to shoot weapons soon to be prohibited in this country and there are plans to establish new pistol ranges in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, where the new legislation will not apply. One group has even negotiated for holidays in Florida for British shooters.

Graham Downing, spokesman for the British Shooting Sports Council, said British shooters would continue their sport in parts of the United Kingdom not covered by new gun bans. They will also go abroad. The National Pistol Association is negotiating to set up a club in Belgium and clubs all over Britain are running handgun shooting day-trips to France and Bel-

gium. Eric Jones, a policeman, spent Saturday at the Rue Mesnil gun club in Dieppe with a party from his club in Rye, East Sussex. "Now that the new laws are coming in, this is the easiest way to shoot handguns," he said.

One gun group called the Shooters' Rights Association has negotiated cheap fly-drive holiday deals in Florida that will be available to gun enthusiasts. One man has sent his own handguns to a Florida club, where they will be cleared by customs.

The Sportsmen's Association, has sent its members legal advice on how to send weapons abroad and apply for local firearms licences. Alistair Brown, the association's solicitor, advises members in a letter to send their weapons to gun clubs in other EU states before July 1, so that they can then be used abroad and possibly be brought back to Britain if a European Court challenge to the 1997 Firearms Amendment Act is successful.

Gun owners are expected to win a package of compensation for their weapons worth at least £150 million after the Commons debate on the subject, which starts today. Tourist officials in the Isle of Man are hopeful that shooting will boost the number of visitors to the island. There are an estimated million handgun shooters in Britain.

Gun companies are also looking into designing new weapons which qualify as rifles under the new regulations but appeal to handgun shooters and use the same ammunition.

Two Brazilian companies, Taurus and Rossi, are considering a design for an adapted revolver which would qualify as a rifle and remain legal in Britain. The new legislation defines a handgun as a weapon with a barrel less than 30cm long and an overall length of less than 60cm.

American gun companies already produce different models to comply with different state firearms regulations. British handgun shooters could soon be firing guns rather like the Bullseye Special, the long-barrelled revolver used by Wyatt Earp.

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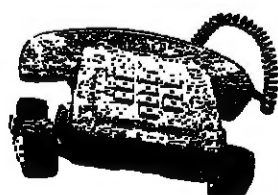
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Nationwide Capitalbuilder 90 Day	4.20% [†]	4.50%	4.80%	5.10%	5.40%	5.40%
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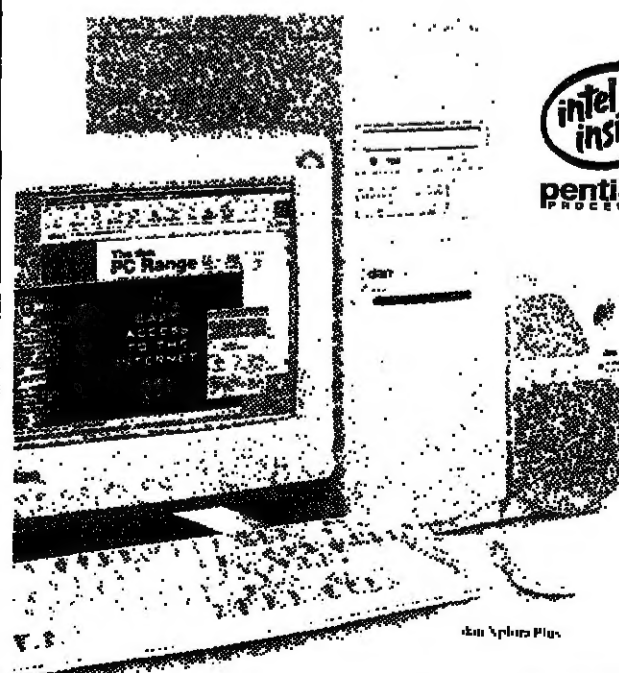
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Blair under pressure to make nuclear test payouts

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

THE Government is facing pressure to compensate thousands of veterans of British nuclear tests during the 1950s and 1960s after a European Commission on Human Rights ruling that the Government violated the men's rights.

The commission was highly critical of the Government's actions in frustrating the veterans' claim to war pensions by denying them access to crucial medical, and other, records to support their claims.

More than 20,000 servicemen took part in nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean and Australia from 1952 to 1967. Many say that serious illnesses, including leukaemia and myeloma, and genetic damage to their children, were a result of exposure to radiation.

The British Nuclear Tests Veterans' Association, which represents some 3,000 people, has written to Tony Blair calling on him to honour the commission's findings and award "just compensation". Labour has indicated that it will continue the Tories' opposition to the claims.

The case at the centre of the ruling, one of three being taken to Europe by the veterans, was brought by Kenneth McGinley, 58, of Johnstone, Renfrewshire, and another anonymous serviceman. Mr McGinley witnessed five bomb tests at Christmas Island and was pensioned out of the Navy with a duodenal ulcer a year later.

He has had chronic health difficulties, including severe kidney and bone problems, and the removal of most of his stomach. He said: "This is a crime which was committed not just to British servicemen. It is a blackspot in Great Britain's history."

News of the commission's ruling emerged only last week,

although it was delivered to the Government at the end of last year. It has implications for the Government's policy on access to information. Liberty, the human rights group, and the Campaign for Freedom of Information have been given leave by the European Court of Human Rights to make submissions on the public records system, laws on access to medical records and international standards on freedom of information.

Maurice Frankel, director of the campaign, said that the previous Government had indicated that it would resist the ruling, which is due to go before the European Court of Human Rights for a final determination in November.

"What we need is a Freedom of Information Act that would provide proper independent machinery for reviewing such withholding of information."

Philip Leach, legal officer of Liberty, said: "The commission has made strong criticism of the Government concerning questions about radiation as 'lacking in candour'."

□ Action on uncharted nuclear waste sites was promised by the Government yesterday after claims that hundreds of dumps, left over from the Cold War, are dotted across Britain. Research by John Large, an independent nuclear engineer, indicate that, at about 520 sites, radioactive materials may be leaking into surrounding soils and waterways.

Michael Meacher, the Minister for Environmental Protection, said: "We take this seriously and we intend to take action as fast as we reasonably can." The Environment Department said the sites, where low-level wastes were disposed, were used before the Radioactive Substances Act in the early 1960s required site registration.

Amateur helps to identify new moth species

By Nick Nuttall, environment correspondent

SCIENTISTS have found a previously unknown species of moth after detective work that took them from the Indian Ocean to Oxfordshire.

The researchers, who have called it the St Valentine's Day Moth, after the night on which it was trapped, had suspected that they had found a new species during an expedition to the islands of the British Indian Ocean Territory in 1996, but only recently confirmed the find.

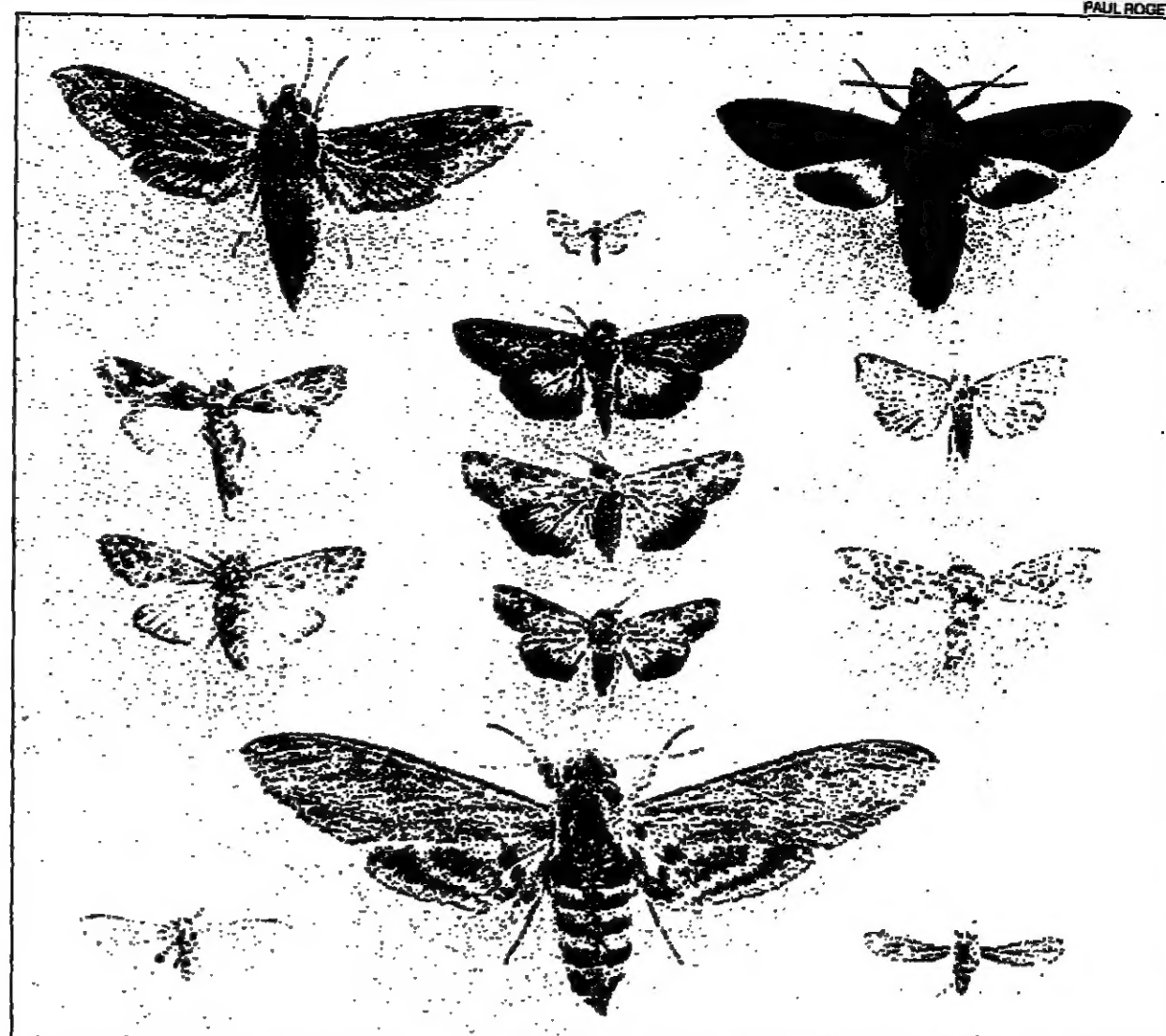
Linda Barnett and Craig Emms, of the Department of Biological Sciences at Warwick University, found three females on Taca Macca, a coral atoll within the archipelago which is also known as the Chagos.

The crucial piece of evidence needed to confirm that it was a new species was a male with which to compare the females. The team was advised to consult an amateur ornithologist, Monty Hiron, who lives near Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Mr Hiron visited the Chagos 20 years ago on an expedition led by David Bellamy and collected a large number of butterfly and moth specimens. There, in his house, among a batch of moths neatly preserved in a wooden box, was the insect that the scientists had been seeking.

In collaboration with Jeremy Holloway, of the Natural History Museum, they have been able to compare the moth's colourings and body parts with those of other Asian moths and have concluded that the Chagos find is unique. "It has been named *Stictoptera hironi* after Mr Hiron. It thrilled him to bits and we have become great buddies," Dr Barnett said.

Mr Hiron, 81, said yesterday: "I was going to get the



The central three moths are of the newly identified species, *Stictoptera hironi*, or St Valentine's Day Moth

moths checked out by the museum but it was one of the thousands of things one just never got round to doing.

"It was quite a surprise to find out it was a new species. It just shows there is still a role for the amateur in this field."

The moth, which has a purple sheeny underwing, has a wingspan of about an inch. Dr Holloway said that the moth's markings were different to those of related species. "There are also subtle differences in the male genitalia."

The scientists also discovered butterflies and moths on the Chagos that appear to be genetically unique varieties of known species. The scientists believe that the islands are only thousands of years old, so evolution on the archipelago must have been very rapid

to produce new varieties and a new species.

The St Valentine's Day moth was discovered during a six-week expedition to the Chagos, an area of 2,300 mainly uninhabited, coral atolls between Africa and Indonesia. The territory is a British dependency where Britain and the United States share military installations centred on the largest island, Diego Garcia.

Britain has been urged to produce conservation management plans for its remaining colonies, since the 1992 Rio Earth summit. The Chagos expedition, led by Charles Sheppard, also of Warwick University, and funded by the Government and organisations such as the World Wide Fund for Nature, was part of the continuing response.



Linda Barnett and Craig Emms on the expedition

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police hurt tackling pub crowd

A police officer sustained a fractured skull and three others were injured after they were attacked by a drunken mob early yesterday. Bottles were thrown at the officers as they tried to control about 80 people outside a pub in Morecambe, Lancashire.

The condition of Sergeant Terry Considine, who was hit on the head, was said to be stable. WPC Michelle Hollywood was treated for two broken ribs and a neck injury. Two other officers suffered minor injuries. Nine men and one woman were arrested.

Rape arrests

Police have arrested two 19-year-old men in connection with the rape of a 14-year-old girl and the sexual assault of two 15-year-olds in Hyde, Manchester, on Thursday morning. The three girls were bundled into a van by three men and later abandoned on a roadside.

Death blast

A man in his 40s was found dead in the wreckage of his home in Windsor after an oxygen cylinder he was using to help his breathing blew up when he lit a cigarette. The wife of the dead man, whose identity was withheld until all relatives had been informed, escaped the flames.

Cannabis find

An airline crew member, believed to be a pilot, was bailed after customs officers found cannabis worth about £30,000 on a staff bus. Several crew members from a GB Airways (a BA franchise) flight from Morocco were searched and detained at Heathrow after the discovery on May 23.

Picnic record

A charity event in Battersea Park, southwest London, is believed to have set a record for the world's biggest picnic. An estimated 10,000 people spent Saturday afternoon in the park and helped to raise £10,000 for the paediatric department at St Thomas's Hospital.

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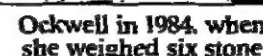
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Labour wants charities to help in job creation

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

CHARITIES and voluntary organisations will be invited to form a "compact" or partnership with the Government as part of its radical plans to defeat welfare dependency. Peter Mandelson will say today.

Mr Mandelson, who, as Minister without Portfolio, has responsibility for overall policy co-ordination, will say that charities should be closely involved in Labour's plans to find jobs for 250,000 unemployed young people. "We have a new deal for the unemployed, and the voluntary sector has an enormous role to play there in delivering services to young people in terms of training and work experience," he said last night.

Mr Mandelson, one of Tony Blair's closest allies, added that the Labour Government saw itself acting increasingly as an "enabler rather than as a provider".

Mr Mandelson will be addressing a conference on the



Mandelson: calls for a compact with charities

future of the voluntary sector, which has been organised by the Media Trust, a new group which aims to examine the responsibility of the media towards charities, pressure groups and corporations.

He is expected to tell the conference that the Government wants voluntary groups to provide many of the services traditionally provided by the state. "We are not asking people to do this for free. We are quite willing to pay for it. We just don't think that the Government should be the

exclusive providers," Mr Mandelson said.

In seeking to make the voluntary sector a partner in Labour's long-term goal of rolling back the welfare state, Mr Mandelson is indicating that the Government means to call upon the vast resources, experience and knowledge at the disposal of charities and voluntary organisations.

His invitation to the sector to form a "compact" comes in marked contrast to the confrontational and at times fraught relationship between the voluntary sector and the Thatcher and Major Governments. Labour's stance is in large part the fruit of the long years it spent in Opposition when it often needed the resources and backing of voluntary groups.

The new Government has already signalled the strength of its commitment to the voluntary sector by switching responsibility for it back to the Home Office, from the Heritage Department.

Caroline Diehl, chief executive of the Media Trust, welcomed the new compact between the state and the

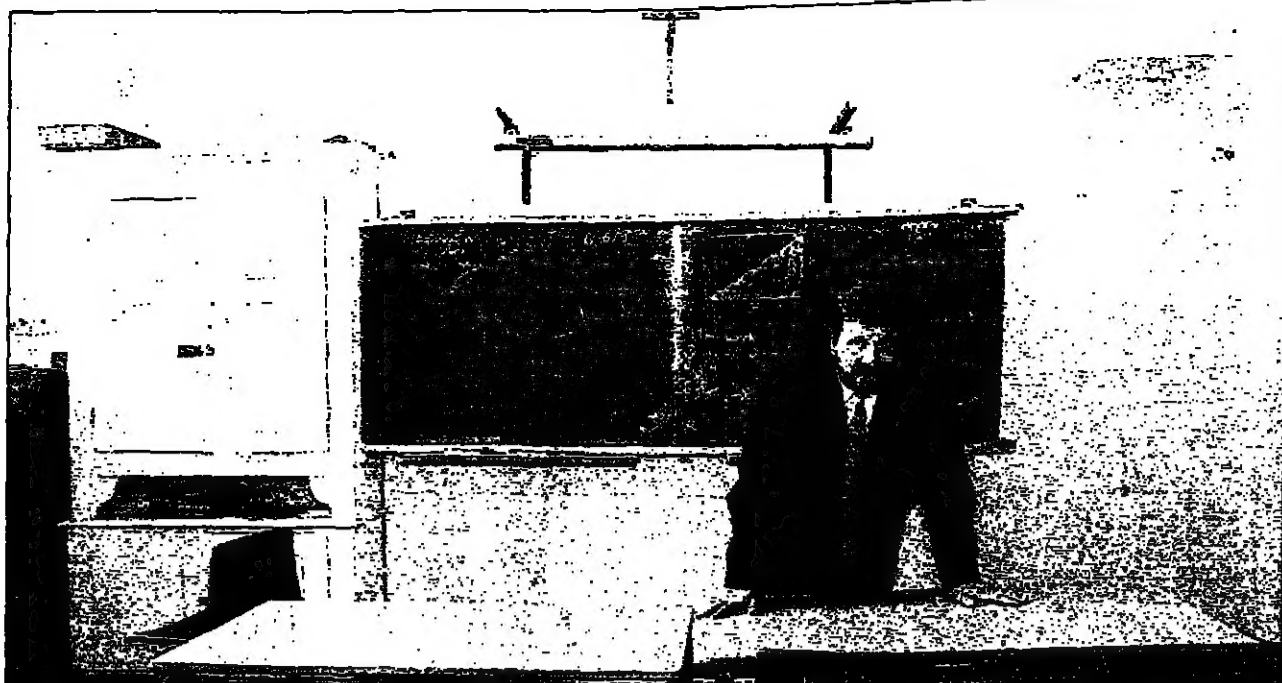
voluntary sector. She gave warning, however, that "it remains to be seen to what extent it actually sticks and to what extent the voluntary sector becomes a tool used by the Government in cutting back the welfare state".

Mr Mandelson will also use his speech to urge charities to adopt more of the techniques of political spin-doctors. "Voluntary organisations need to exploit the media better," he said.

The media, meanwhile, needed to have more respect for the achievements of voluntary organisations. "Both regard the other with a lot of suspicion. I attach importance to overcoming that."

The other speakers at the conference will include the broadcasters Jon Snow and Esther Rantzen, and the chairman of the BBC, Sir Christopher Bland.

The conference, entitled *Wise Up, Tune In, Switch On*, will take place at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre in London today. It is sponsored by *News International*, the ultimate owner of *The Times*.



Paul Segalini, head teacher of St Richard of Chichester School in north London. Ministers endorsed closure

Hume stands by school that failed

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

CARDINAL Basil Hume, the leader of Britain's Roman Catholics, is to step into the row over the first school to be closed by the Labour Government.

The Archbishop of Westminster is to go ahead with a

celebratory Mass next week marking the fortieth anniversary of St Richard of Chichester School in Camden, north London, less than a month after its closure was ordered. His presence will be seen as a gesture of solidarity with staff, who felt their school was used unfairly as a symbol of the new Government's tough

stance on failing schools. The Catholic comprehensive, shunned by Tony Blair for the education of his two sons, was earmarked for closure by its local authority five months ago. But ministerial approval of the recommendation last month was portrayed as the first example of the new "zero tolerance of failure".

Paul Segalini, the head teacher, said: "This was an obvious attempt to make political capital out of rubber-stamping a decision. It did unnecessary damage to the way pupils see themselves."

Arrangements for the closure were so far advanced when the final decision was announced that only sixth-formers will return to St Richard's after the summer holidays. Mr Segalini said: "Once Camden made its decision, we set about finding the best schools for the pupils. The school simply is not viable now." Mr Segalini added: "There is a lot of anger, perhaps in the Church as well as the school, about the way the announcement

was made. The good work that was being done for the pupils was partly undone by the unfortunate and inaccurate coverage that resulted."

Cardinal Hume accepted the invitation to conduct the service when Camden was consulting the local community on its initial proposal to close the school. He is not expected to condemn the closure decision, but his presence at the Mass on June 19 will be seen as an indication that the Church does not accept all of the criticism levelled at St Richard's.

With only 8 per cent of 16-year-olds passing five good GCSEs last summer, the school had among the worst results in London. It also had one of the ten worst truancy records in England.

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, announcing the closure, said: "We shall not maintain schools simply for the sake of it. Persistent failure cannot be tolerated, and there is clear evidence that St Richard of Chichester has let its pupils down."

Teachers oppose reading hour plan

TEACHERS' leaders have set their face against changes to be announced tomorrow that would steer primary schools towards the introduction of a reading hour before cuts are agreed to other subjects in the national curriculum (writes John O'Leary).

Ministers want schools to devote at least an hour a day to teaching reading by traditional methods, but they have agreed not to revise the curriculum in the next two years. Estelle Morris, the Schools Minister, will tell government advisers that the literacy gap is too serious to wait that long.

In a speech to the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, Ms Morris will set

out the Government's demands for "elbow room" to be found for the initiative within the current framework. Primary schools will be asked to follow the example of those which already find time for daily sessions on the basics.

But David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, yesterday accused ministers of expecting schools to "get a quart into a pint pot" and encouraging them to neglect important parts of the curriculum. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said the literacy hour was unnecessarily prescriptive.

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EU chiefs seek French line on fate of euro

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

AFTER two weeks of political upheaval on the Continent, the fate of the European single currency could become clearer today when the new French Socialist Government tells its partners whether it aims to stick to campaign promises that could sign the project's death warrant.

European Union finance ministers in Luxembourg will be hearing from Dominique Strauss-Kahn, their French counterpart, whether the administration of Lionel Jospin plans to demand a renegotiation of the "stability pact", an arrangement for enforcing budgetary rigour among countries that join the euro.

Putting aside the political tensions last night, ministers were beginning their session with a review of the designs for the future coins. They were given their first glimpse of a short list being tested on the European public before a decision by heads of government.

The Luxembourg meeting had been due to put the finish-

ing touches to the pact, hampered out under German instigation last December, before a routine signature by EU leaders at their Amsterdam summit a week today.

Governments across the EU have insisted that the pact cannot be reopened, and Bonn has signalled that any such move would undermine the whole project. Trying to calm the euro storm, EU officials have been working on ideas for meeting M Jospin's needs without unstitching the carefully crafted accords behind the monetary scheme.

Jacques Delors, the French Socialist who presided over the Maastricht negotiation as European Commission President, has won support for tacking on to the existing pact a text that reiterates the treaty's rules for economic co-operation. Ministers hope this may be enough to satisfy M Jospin. "Reality is already hitting Jospin," a German official said. "Campaign rhetoric is no match for cold figures." EU

leaders are expected to take a similar approach to appeasing M Jospin's desire for an "economic government of Europe". At Amsterdam, they are expected to offer him an accord to set up an advisory council that would monitor the actions of the future European Central Bank. Its closer political control was another Socialist campaign promise.

Embroidered in a domestic crisis of confidence of his own, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, is also hoping that M Jospin will soften his campaign promises of an "economic government" to administer the euro along with the future central bank. Bonn says this would destroy the primacy of the bank in managing the currency. President Chirac tried to float the scheme last year, but was slapped down by the Germans and others.

M Jospin proclaimed his commitment to Europe and the currency over the weekend as German and other ministers struggled to pump hope

into the project and quash rumours that EU leaders could agree in Amsterdam on a delay. M Strauss-Kahn, who has a strong pro-European background, reassured Bonn on Saturday, saying: "The Germans have no reason to be worried." At the same time, President Chirac, making his first appearance since the humiliating defeat of his Gaullist Government, pledged to defend "the achievements of Europe that have been produced with 40 years of patience and effort".

Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister and summit host, said the stability pact would not be reopened and the euro launch would not be delayed. He suggested that the EU would answer French concerns by beefing up its commitment to co-ordinating policy on employment.

Only the German Government is now resisting the inclusion of an "employment chapter" in the revamped Maastricht treaty.

Chirac vows to honour commitments

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

IN HIS first public speech since the crushing defeat of his centre-right coalition by the Socialists last Sunday, President Chirac broke six days of silence to speak of his determination to ensure that France honoured its European commitments. Addressing a health insur-

ance conference in Lille at the weekend, M Chirac made it clear that he intended to maintain an active role in governing France despite being forced to share power with the new left-wing Government.

"Today my duty is to preserve the European advantages obtained after 40 years of patience and effort and to continue to advance, despite the obsta-

cles, towards a united Europe that is strong and just." His remarks came as speculation mounted that the Jospin Government would call today for a postponement in talks on the stability pact. The accord, negotiated by all 15 member states, was agreed in Dublin last year and imposes fiscal restraints intended to keep deficits in check for qualification for single currency.



A young Pole watching the Pope through binoculars as the pontiff celebrates an open-air Mass in Cracow yesterday. At the service the Pope canonised Queen Jadwiga, who died in 1399 after helping to spread Christianity to neighbouring countries. The Pope's visit to his native land, possibly his last, ends tomorrow

Thieves steal the show at Ferrari's red-letter day

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

IT WAS supposed to be the car rally to end all car rallies, a stream of 1,500 red Ferraris to mark the great Italian car firm's fiftieth anniversary.

But it ended with red faces at Ferrari's headquarters at Modena yesterday when seven Ferraris worth millions of pounds were stolen, and a Texan millionaire spotted his own long lost F512 being driven by an unsuspecting British enthusiast who bought the car in good faith at auction eight years ago.

The celebrations began with a rally in Rome a week ago, 50 years after Ferrari won his first Grand Prix, and ended yesterday at Modena, near Bologna. But an anonymous Texan, watching the parade of racing cars on CNN, suddenly exclaimed: "That's my car!" It turned out that the car, with "Sunoco" (for Sun Oil Company) on its side, was the prototype of the 512 model of which only 25 were ever made. It first entered races in the 1970s, when it was driven by Arturo Merzario, the celebrated Italian champion.

The car was bought by the Sun Oil Company of Texas,

which raced it in America. In 1977 it was stolen, and the oil company hired a string of detectives in an unsuccessful attempt to trace the car. It was only when it was spotted on television that the truth came to light. The Texan telephoned Interpol, and within hours Italian police had approached the astonished British owner, impounding the car.

While Modena was chuckling over the case, thieves took advantage of the rally euphoria to steal seven Ferraris belonging to Dutch, German, American, Swiss and Italian collectors while the owners were celebrating in the bars and restaurants of Modena's medieval old town. "We offered special parking and high security measures for the rally, with troops guarding the cars in Modena barracks," a police spokesman at Modena said. "But some owners were too careless. You won't believe this, but they left their cars outside restaurants with the keys in the ignition."

Police said there were "as many Ferrari thieves in Modena over the weekend as there were bona fide enthusiasts".

Police get the upper hand in Mafia war

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

BUOYED by their capture of Pietro Aglieri, one of the most wanted Mafia gangsters and a key figure in international drug smuggling, police revealed yesterday that they were systematically "decapitating" the Cosa Nostra, thanks to information from a Mafia godfather arrested last year.

They said Giovanni Brusca, captured in May last year, was being rewarded for helping the authorities by having his "hard" prison regime softened, with some privileges restored. They also disclosed that Aglieri, once called "The Wolf" because of his elegance, had been found living in a squalor when captured on Friday and in jail had since "turned to God for forgiveness".

Police said Brusca, who once ran the Mafia with ruthless brutality, had identified Aglieri from photographs taken at long range by anti-Mafia police. The police had kept the isolated farmhouse where Aglieri was living under surveillance. Hours after Brusca's positive identification 300 police stormed the farmhouse near Palermo, scaling the high walls around it with ladders and throwing thunderflashes to disorientate Aglieri and the two hitmen guarding him.

The capture of Aglieri, 38, follows the arrest of Brusca in May last year, of Leoluca Bagarella and Nitto Santapaula in 1995, and of Salvatore "Toto" Riina in January 1993. The collapse of the Mafia leadership followed a wave of public anti-Mafia revulsion in the wake of the murders of two popular anti-Mafia judges, Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, in 1992. The authorities are now stepping up their hunt for the last remaining Mafia don on the run, Bernardo Provenzano, 64, known as "The Tractor" for his physique and ruthlessness.

But Giancarlo Caselli, the anti-Mafia prosecutor in Palermo, said the Mafia remained "a strong, highly efficient, bloodthirsty and dangerous organisation" that had accumulated "enormous riches" with which to corrupt officials. Although the Mafia dons were being picked off one by one, there were others to take their place. "There is no room for triumphalism", Signor Caselli said.



Brusca: godfather who is helping officials

Nights of violence daunt southern Berisha bastion

By day, Korce's market is teeming with street traders. After dark, the curfew is punctuated by rebels firing their AK47s from the hillsides, James Pettifer reports

WITH three weeks to go before polling day, Albania is beset by social chaos and night-time violence. During the day, the casual visitor might not notice much difference from a year ago. But after the curfew, things are different.

Korce is the regional capital of the southeast, a decent, civilised town that has avoided the worst of the turmoil of the past three months. By day, the market below the Ottoman mosque is teeming with street traders. At 8pm the curfew begins and Special Forces troops cruise the empty streets in armoured personnel carriers. Korce is still held by the Government, and President Berisha's Democratic Party won all six parliamentary seats in the last election. But that is all they hold. The surrounding countryside and Morava mountains are dominated by rebels supporting the Socialist Party, and once it is dark they fire their AK47s from the hillsides into the town.

Among all this, the 6,000-strong multinational peace-keeping force is nowhere to be seen. Local people are bemused at their absence after the publicity bonanza when they arrived two months ago.

Although it is claimed in Tirana that the roads are becoming secure, this is plainly not the case. Travelling south from Shkoder to Tirana at the weekend, our car was

held up by heavily armed men near Lezhe, and getting from Tirana to the southeast means a nerve-jangling run at high speed through bandit-dominated little towns such as Librazhd.

All economic activity stops at about 5pm for security reasons. When travelling on the road, all valuables must be hidden. Albania has returned to Ottoman times where the towns were islands in a wild, disorderly sea.

Among all this, the Democratic Party is trying to run an election campaign. Bujar Isak, a local leader and Tirana MP, is pessimistic about whether it can campaign outside the city. "It is very difficult for us. The people lost a great deal in the



pyramid selling schemes and blame the President. I certainly cannot travel to many villages."

Public figures cannot travel to Korce either. Genc Pollo, the Democratic national leader, managed to pay a visit last week to meet party activists under very heavy armed guard, but any kind of open campaigning or holding meetings seems impossible. Although the local Democratic Party is ahead of many other candidates, there are no posters, no ballot boxes and no information at the town hall on whereabouts of polling.

But it seems the election will be held, and many Albanians feel that it could, with luck, be the darkness before a modest dawn. Mr Isak feels that rock bottom may have been reached. "We cannot live in the modern world like this. I think, the people know that." □ Tirana: Franz Vranitzky, the European envoy to Albania, arrived for talks on the elections and appealed for calm. "My team are gravely concerned about violence in some parts of Albania," he said. (Reuters)

07/01/97

Police get the upper hand in Mafia war

THE TIMES MONDAY JUNE 9 1997

McDonald's takes a grilling over cut-price fiasco

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

FALLEN arches, egg on the face — America's headline writers are tripping over themselves to describe the plight of the once-mighty McDonald's.

But after a disastrous week, in which it was forced to withdraw its latest high-profile promotion to lure customers back through the golden arches, McDonald's is not sharing the joke.

The latest fiasco came on Tuesday, when McDonald's scrapped Campaign 55, billed as the mother of special offers and the magic bullet which would help it to make inroads into the land of Burger King and Wendy's.

The six-week \$200 million (£12 million) promotion, named after the 1955 founding of the fast-food company, offered a Big Mac for 55 cents instead of \$1.90. But it baffled and enraged customers who realised only at the cash register that they had to buy fries and a drink at the full price to get the cheap burger, asking the discount only about 5 per cent.

That followed the sobering experience of the Happy Meals special offer in April which gave away Beanie Babies dolls with children's burgers.

McDonald's franchise owners were quick to detect from their rubbish bins that children were dumping the bur-



gers, keeping only the stuffed toy.

Worldwide, McDonald's is still undisputed king of the fast-food business. Sales and profits hit record levels last year, and Interbrand, a transatlantic consultancy which puts values on brand names, reckons that McDonald's has overtaken Coca-Cola to become the most powerful in the world.

The real problem is at home, in the American heartland, where few towns are without one of its 12,100 restaurants. True, 22 million customers still visit them every day, and it still has 42 per cent of the \$39 billion hamburger market.

But for two years, sales have been flat. Salomon Brothers, the investment bank, estimates that they slipped 4 per cent in May.

The company's 2,750 franchise owners, who equip and run 35 per cent of the restaurants in return for 12.5 per cent of the sales, are furious. They accuse McDonald's of open-

ing too many sites — another 600 are due this year — whittling away profit margins every year and turning what was once a guaranteed goldmine into a hair-raising endeavour.

The heart of the problem, it seems, is that baby-boomers have got older and care more about taste. Yet armies of fast-food critics, a flourishing profession in America, argue that McDonald's has failed to improve the taste and range of its meals in the 1990s as much as its rivals, to the point where even price-cutting will not prevent customers wandering a hundred yards down the road to the second-ranked Burger King or the third-place Wendy's.

Customers still give McDonald's top marks for its french fries. Although they seem to prefer the flame-grilled cooking at Burger King, switching from frying to flame-grilling would simply be too expensive for McDonald's.

Jack Greenberg, head of US operations, announced three weeks ago that he would scrap the 40-year old tradition of centralised management in Illinois, installing dozens of local managers to make the company more responsive. But multinous franchise holders are in no mood to tolerate many more gimmicks which fail to put the sizzle back in their sales.



Bill Richardson, the American Ambassador to the United Nations, is greeted by refugees at the Kisingani camp in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo at the weekend. Last night he had some good

Kabila agrees to UN inquiry

news from the Government: President Kabila finally agreed to co-operate with a UN investigation into the

late of Rwandan Hutus after reports of fresh killings carried out by his soldiers in the east of the country (Inigo Gilmore writes). Mr Kabila denied that any massacres had been committed.

France steps up Brazzaville bid to free foreigners

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG AND SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

FRANCE will today send reinforcements to Brazzaville after a Congo militia yesterday seized the centre of the capital during an attempted coup. Heavy fighting has left one French soldier dead and raised fears about the safety of foreign nationals trapped in the country.

The French Defence Ministry announced that it would send 500 soldiers from its bases in other African states to join the 450 troops moved to Brazzaville in case they were needed to evacuate French citizens from nearby Kinshasa during the final days of the civil war in Zaire.

The fighting, between soldiers loyal to President Lissouba and forces supporting Denis Sassou Nguesso, a former President, broke out in the run-up to the country's July 27 elections.

As clashes continued for a fourth day, forces loyal to Mr Nguesso were reported to have taken control of the centre of the city and surrounded the Prime Minister's office and the Treasury, capturing armoured vehicles and tanks. Streets were reported to be littered with bodies after heavy fighting for control of the airport.

An aid worker in Kinshasa said he was in radio contact with colleagues in the city. He said relief workers had been unable to collect bodies or tend the wounded because of the intensity of the fighting. "Our colleagues in Brazzaville can see many bodies in the streets

around their headquarters," he said. "It's hard to tell if they are soldiers or civilians."

No reliable death toll was available but one European resident of Brazzaville said it could be "several hundred".

A French soldier was killed and five others were wounded on Saturday as they tried to evacuate foreign residents from a building where they had been trapped by gunfire. The soldier was killed when his unit came under fire at a crossroads.

Calls by Charles David Gnani, the Prime Minister, for a ceasefire went unheeded. "The problem is that there are Nguesso's militias and there are Congolese army units which are not under the control of their officers, and so we have seen Congolese army units firing on their fellow soldiers," Alexis Jaraud, the commander of the French forces in the region, said yesterday.

As foreign nationals attempted to flee the Congo for neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, the former Zaire, a plane carrying 44 American citizens to Kinshasa came under fire. In another incident, a US embassy vehicle in which American diplomats were travelling was attacked. Armed men believed to be members of a pro-Nguesso militia seized the occupants but later released them. The heavy fighting forced US embassy staff to suspend operations to evacuate their nationals.

Settlement row threatens Israel talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AN NEW ROW over Jewish settlements yesterday almost sabotaged the first meeting between Israeli and Palestinian peace negotiators for three months. The Egyptian-organised meeting in Cairo failed to take place after the Israeli team delayed their flight until they received an official Palestine Liberation Organisation denial of earlier claims that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had agreed to a temporary "pause" in settlement building.

The dispute highlighted the distrust between the two sides, which have not

met since March 18 when bulldozers began breaking ground in east Jerusalem to build homes for 32,000 Jews. The land at Har Homa was captured from Jordan 30 years ago and then annexed.

Yesterday's talks in the Egyptian capital were designed to see if any formula could be found to enable a resumption of the peace talks. Nabil Abourdenah, a Palestinian negotiator, said in Cairo that they had received "no serious offer from the Israeli side... Nothing new at all".

The diplomatic setback occurred when Marwan Kanafani, a close aide of Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat, told an international news agency that Israel had agreed to a "pause" in

building settlements, enabling Palestinians to return to the table. When the claim was broadcast, Mr Netanyahu, aware that any such commitment would endanger his small majority in the Knesset, reacted angrily.

While American and Egyptian diplomats worked feverishly to calm tempers, it was arranged for the Palestinian delegation, already in Cairo, to issue a denial. Saeb Erekat, the chief negotiator, made clear that the Israelis had made no promises about halting settlements. The Palestinians said they had agreed to attend the "talks about talks" as a "gesture" to Egypt. After the denial, the Israeli negotiators left for Cairo.

No sympathy for McVeigh

Washington: Two-thirds of Americans favour the death penalty for Timothy McVeigh, found guilty last week of the Oklahoma City bombing, according to a Newsweek poll (Bronwen Maddox writes).

The survey follows a week of harrowing testimony from the prosecution, which paraded relatives of the dead in court. McVeigh's defence team will try this week to persuade the jury that their client should receive only life.

Murder victim's ex-pupil held

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

POLICE have charged a former student with the murder of Jonathan Levin, the school teacher son of the head of Time-Warner, who was found dead in his New York flat last week.

Corey Arthur, 19, a petty drugs dealer who was once taught English by Mr Levin at the Taft High School in the Bronx, was arrested at a run-down council estate in Brooklyn after one of the biggest

manhunts in New York's history.

Police have also charged Montoun Hart, 25, with being an accessory to murder. Mr Levin was killed after several minutes of torture to make him reveal the pin number of his cash card.

The two men are also accused of stealing the card and taking money from a cashpoint nearby, an act which was caught on a surveillance camera. A police spokesman yesterday alleged that Mr Arthur was the man

who was filmed making the withdrawal.

Mr Arthur's arrest has stunned students and teachers at Taft, where Mr Levin was a popular staff member. Students, particularly, reacted with incredulity when told that a former pupil had been charged with his murder.

A spokesman for Time-Warner Inc, where the dead man's father, Gerald Levin, is chief executive officer, said yesterday that the family was "grateful for the speedy police work that led to the arrests".

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BUS60

British aid group accused over links with coup leaders

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE British charity International Alert is at the centre of a controversy over its link with rebels in Sierra Leone who staged the recent coup.

President Kabbah, overthrown by mutinous soldiers last month, wrote in April to the United Nations Secretary-General making far-reaching, but unsubstantiated, charges against the British conflict-resolution group, that went beyond mere policy disputes.

"My Government," President Kabbah wrote, "is in possession of concrete evidence that International Alert have been engaged in malicious practices in order to prolong the conflict in my country, which they use for soliciting funds from donor agencies and governments."

He also alleged that it had illegal links with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). President Kabbah, now in exile in Guinea, did not provide supporting evidence, but

UN officials continue to express concern about the charity's role in the country.

International Alert, in a written response to Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, said Mr Kabbah's charges had "no basis in fact".

The charity's major donors, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and The Netherlands, are conducting an evaluation of its work around the world. The Overseas Development Institute in London has been asked to assess its role in Sierra Leone, one of three case studies of its performance.

Founded by Martin Ennals in 1985, the charity boasts a host of notables on its board, including Lord Judd of Portsea, the former Labour Overseas Development Minister and later director of Oxfam. Its secretary-general is Kumar Rupasinghe, a Sri Lankan said to harbour ambitions to be the next head of the UN.

International Alert first

came involved in Sierra Leone in early 1995 when it negotiated the release of hostages being held by the RUF rebel group that had been waging war against the Government in the former British colony since 1991.

The charity facilitated the first contact between the Government and the RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, a then mysterious corporal who had organised the revolt after being dismissed from the army.

International Alert advised the RUF during the subsequent peace talks and was named as one of the guarantors of the peace settlement struck last November because the rebels mistrusted the UN.

The RUF apparently feared that the UN would favour President Kabbah, a former official at the UN Development Programme in New York, who was elected in a poll overseen by another former high-ranking UN official,



A heavily armed bodyguard of coup leader, Major Johnny Paul Koromoh, standing guard outside the Sierra Leone Defence Ministry

James Jonah, now the country's Ambassador to the UN.

International Alert's board of trustees suspended the charity's work in Sierra Leone last December and it is now officially "disengaged", but its

role continues to be a source of irritation at the UN.

Mr Annan has endorsed Nigerian military intervention to overturn last month's coup, which has attracted RUF support. But International Alert,

while condemning the coup, has warned against Nigerian intervention.

Mr Rupasinghe admits there were policy differences with the UN, but says they were resolved and notes that

the charity received praise from all sides when the peace deal was signed. "There have been various concerns expressed about our role," he said. "Unfortunately, none of this has been substantiated."

□ Airport held: RUF rebels allied to the coup leaders in Sierra Leone have taken control of Hastings airport while Nigeria had been using to fly in troops and supplies for military base. (Reuters)

Pleading for the life of a looter

Continued from page 1

from an ear, my head is pulled back by the hair and I see a machete coming towards me. Just as I think this is my last moment, the troops begin to fight around me with fresh arrivals. Everybody seems enraged at having missed the opportunity to shoot down the helicopter. The new group, from the rebel army, formerly the RMLF, has arrived — they want me as their bounty. I am pulled into a pick-up truck and spirited down the runway. The soldiers around me in the vehicle begin to loot my baggage. When I object I get another rifle blow to the head. Sierra Leone after the coup: definitely a bad place to be for a single, white European.

A vast major drives the jeep. He is Liberian and loyal to the RMLF. After a short journey, I am pulled out and put against a tree. I am expecting to be shot, at best, as a spy. There is a terrible way of fighting West African wars. It is not uncommon for live captives to have their hearts cut out and eaten, else be castrated and dismembered by captors blasted out on anything from smothered gunpowder to Freetown moonshine. But the major's mood changes on an instant. "Don't worry," he assures me. "We shall take care of you. Now tell me which soldier has looted your things?"

I point to one of the teenage soldiers who bashed my head and took my things. "The major goes berserk. 'Now you,' he screams at the soldier, striking him to the ground. The major is handed a Kalashnikov, a weapon that looks like a little stick in his enormous hands. The major beats the hapless trooper with it, then cocks the weapon and gets ready to kill him. Men turn to me for judgment. For a dark moment I want to see the man dead, splattered on the jungle floor. But only minutes before, it was I in his position and I knew now how he was feeling, the heaviness of his terrible fear. Weakly I asked the men to let him live. They stripped him and beat him till he was raw and bloody, then kicked him into the bush.

"OKa we save you now," said the major. Back in the vehicle once more, laden with child soldiers and armaments, we raced into Freetown.

Half an hour later, they dropped me at Freetown's one remaining hotel. "Be sure you have a nice day," grinned the major. I had my baggage and my life intact. By Freetown's standards it was indeed a good day.

WORLD SUMMARY

Swiss reject export ban on arms

Geneva: Swiss voters rejected a chance to make Switzerland the only Western industrialised country to ban arms exports (Peter Capella writes). In a referendum, 77.3 per cent in a small turnout voted against outlawing the sale abroad of arms or products with potential dual military and civilian use. Industry said a ban would cost up to 120,000 jobs, nearly doubling the 5.6 per cent unemployment.

Envoy named

Moscow: President Yeltsin appointed Yuri Fokin, a senior career diplomat, as Russia's new Ambassador to London. Mr Fokin, 61, will replace Anatoli Adamishin, who is expected to return to Moscow for a new assignment, possibly within the Kremlin administration. The new envoy is currently head of the Russian mission in Norway.

UN cash claim

New York: The United Nations is to ask Israel for £1.06 million in compensation for the shelling of a UN peace-keeping base in southern Lebanon last year which the Israelis said was "a mistake". A General Assembly committee called on Israel to pay the money to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon.

Food aid ready

Seoul: South Korea will deliver food aid to the famine-threatened North from Thursday under the first direct agreement between the countries' Red Cross societies. Reports said the northern Red Cross would send a security guarantee for its southern counterparts. (Reuters)

Temple deaths

Delhi: Thirty-nine people died and at least 200 were injured, 50 seriously, when fire broke out in the 11th-century Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur, south of Madras, and set off a stampede among panic-stricken worshippers. Indian officials said.

Cash and carry

Hong Kong: Rich ethnic Indians are packing their jewellery and heading for Singapore as the handover to China nears, reports said. "We carried as much as we could... two bags of gold and diamonds," one woman said. (Reuters)

Bhutto brother 'killed on government orders'

Islamabad: A judicial tribunal has held "higher authorities" in the government of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto responsible for the killing of her estranged brother, Murtaza (Zahid Hussain writes).

Murtaza Bhutto and seven supporters were killed in a shoot-out with police in September, three weeks before Miss Bhutto's government was ousted. "The death of Murtaza Bhutto and his supporters was an act of extra-

judicial killing by the police on the clearance of higher authorities," said the tribunal, headed by a supreme court judge, in its report yesterday.

The tribunal said police could not have taken the decision to open fire without the approval of high provincial and federal authorities. These were not named. The report is likely to strengthen the case against Miss Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, who is charged with conspiring to kill her brother.

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Shanghai ticks to the tunes of imperialist past

STROLLING on the overcrowded Bund, the Westminster chime of the clock on the former British Customs House recalls another era — the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution when it played the Maoist anthem, *The East is Red*.

Daisy Kwok, 88, the daughter of the founder in 1918 of the Wing On Shanghai department store, remembers that time well. She was labouring on a farm because of her "bad class background".

For Mrs Kwok and for millions of others, the clock that stopped in China when Mao Zedong declared the People's Republic in 1949, is starting again. The other night she was guest of honour at Shanghai Sally's, a British watering hole, to mark the emergence of a big band, 1930s-style, composed of students from Shanghai's music conservatory.

"I am an antique now," said Mrs Kwok, as the band played *In the Mood*. "Life was much more in the family then, and



History is repeating itself, this time without the exploitation of the Chinese people, reports James Pringle from Shanghai

the social classes didn't mix. I would never have been to a pub." She talked regretfully of her late husband, who made the mistake during Mao's "100 Flowers" campaign in the late 1950s of criticising the Communist Party. "I warned him not to do it." Her husband died in a labour camp a few years later, and a year after was posthumously declared a "counter-revolutionary".

Percy Chu, 100, has lived through five tumultuous dynasties, culminating in the Communist era. He was one of China's most prominent bankers and financiers in the 1930s, and in 1934-45 was president of Shanghai's Rotary Club. He paid for his past. In 1957 he was accused of

being a "rightist and counter-revolutionary" and spent 21 years from the age of 60 to 81 doing "reform through labour" in a textile factory.

Mr Chu, who was guest of honour last month at a banquet in Beijing sponsored by the Chinese capital's unofficial Rotary Club, said that during the Cultural Revolution, when he was sweeping a factory floor and cleaning lavatories, the Shanghai revolutionary leaders would seek his advice on international banking. Even as he suffered at their hands, he did not let the leftists lose face. "I would idly sweep an imaginary speck of dust with my broom, as if I were still working, then advise them on what course of action

to take, as party cadres took notes," he said.

Hermann Heid, who heads the "unofficial" Rotary in Beijing, said that Mr Chu had been present at the last Rotary Club meeting in Shanghai just before the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. "Then he was lost behind the Bamboo Curtain. A few years ago, Percy reappeared again, just as Shanghai itself had

been reborn as a great world city." In many senses, it has been reborn, though the Communists still run a tight ship in this city of 13.5 million. But the craziness that saw Mrs Kwok and Mr Chu become "ghosts" has passed, though there are still plenty of political dissidents in labour camps. I saw some of that madness myself during a visit to Shanghai in 1972 when the radicals were

still in charge. "We teach the children to hate flowers as useless things," said one fanatic schoolteacher then. "They should learn the merits of medicinal herbs and serve the people as barefoot doctors."

When, while walking on the then austere Bund, with its winsome girls wrapped in shapeless Mao suits, I told my Shanghai government escort that he should be proud that

the girls of his native city were so attractive, his face flushed. "That is nothing to be proud of," he spluttered in a fury.

Nowadays, Shanghai is a place of flowers and fashion again, and at the Golden Age nightclub girls rise through the floor on pedestals clad in spiked World War One German helmets with pheasant plumes springing from them.

With the enormous facility history has for repeating itself, the Shanghai of the 1930s seems to be recreating itself, but without the exploitation of the Chinese population who chose then to live in the International Settlement. Initially the British concession, because they felt safer there away from the Kuomintang agents, mafia hitmen and gangsters of the Chinese-ruled areas. They did, however, suffer discrimination — a

Shanghai for the sanctuary persecuted Jews received here — a sanctuary mostly lacking in Europe. A synagogue has reopened in Shanghai, together with a number of churches serving a Christian community of about 160,000.

Orthodox Jews wearing long sidelocks and black tailcoats have reappeared, touring old sites associated with the Jews, much to the amazement of the Chinese population, especially the three million migrant workers from inland provinces, in a city where foreigners virtually disappeared for decades.

Chinese "chickens", as they are still called, offer love for sale in the tree-lined old French concession and on the Bund where they proffer "come hither" smiles, even if the decadence of old Shanghai is unlikely to be equalled

anywhere again. The old Shanghai was a byword for excess: the bodies picked up on the streets every morning, the coffins of the poor sent off down the Huangpu River to the Yangtze and the sea, and the rich

"The past madness has gone... it is again a city of flowers and fashion"

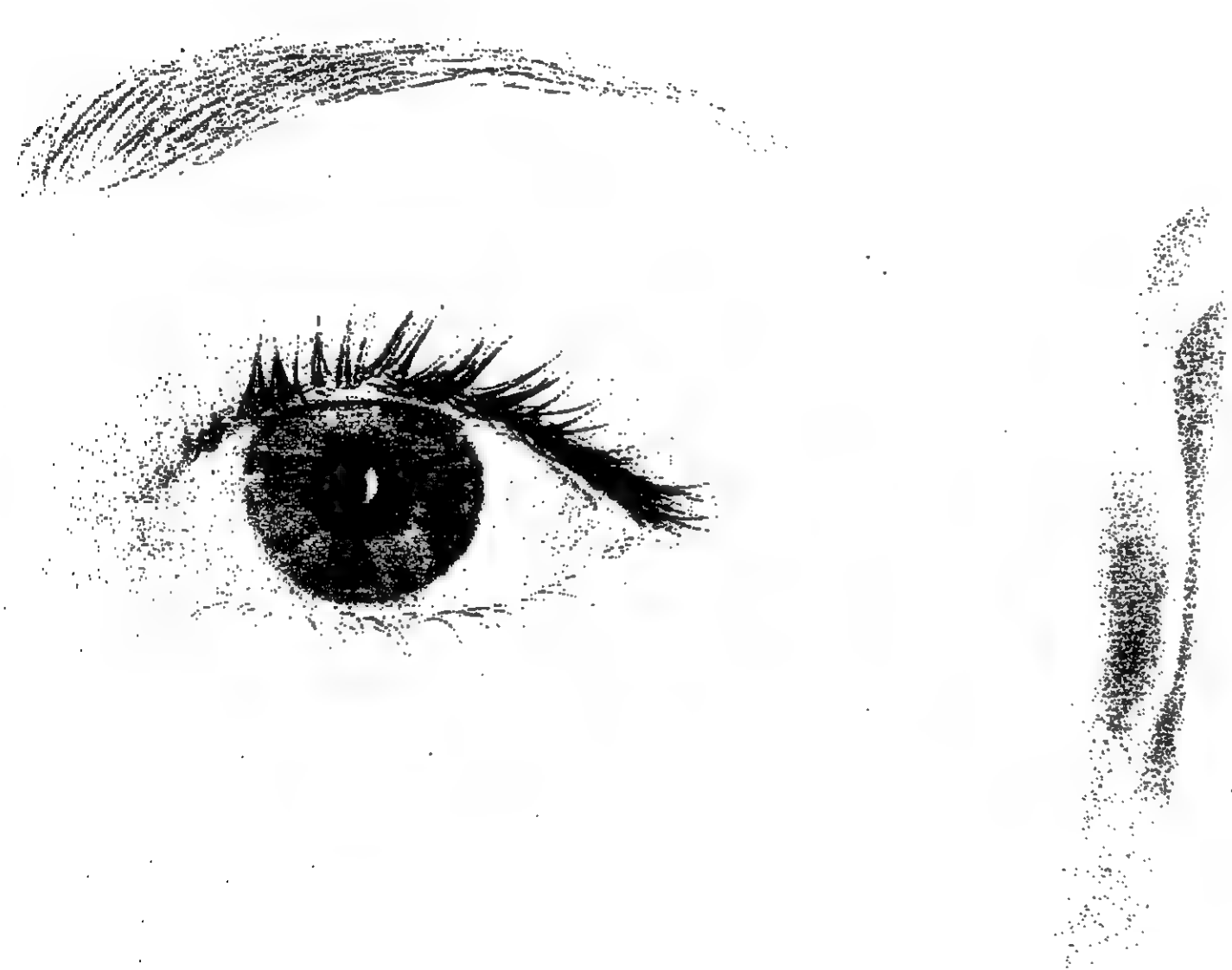
who used sable coats to keep the engines of their cars warm even as ill-clad people froze to death. No one will mourn the disappearance of these aspects, and the racism.

But there has been an odd phenomenon in the People's Republic of China: a seeming sense of amnesia about the country that existed before 1949, as if the history of modern China began when Mao stood on the Tiananmen Gate on October 1, 1949, and proclaimed: "The Chinese people has stood up."

The ghosts and memories of the 1930s that are reappearing are another sign that Shanghai has finally and belatedly emerged from the traumas of recent decades. Most here hope such times — and the romantic but brutal days of old Shanghai — never reappear.



The clock at the former British Customs House on the Bund, Shanghai's waterfront, is chiming again. It was stopped by Mao in 1949



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The Taipan's Mansion, designed in the 1920s by a French architect, a symbol of old Shanghai

Nordic biker war claims tenth life

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

THE bloody four-year turf war between rival Hell's Angels and Bandidos motorcycle gangs in the Nordic region flared up again at the weekend with the second killing in three days.

A member of the Bandidos was shot dead and three others were seriously wounded on Saturday night in a shooting incident in the quiet Danish Kattegat seaside resort of Liseleje, west of Elsinore — the tenth death in the conflict.

Danish police said four members of the Bandidos were hit by automatic weapon fire from a passing car as they left a crowded burger bar. Police set up roadblocks in the area and a Hell's Angels biker was arrested.

The incident came three days after the murder of a biker in Norway. Last Wednesday, a car bomb exploded at a Bandidos clubhouse in the Norwegian town of Drammen, killing a woman

passer-by and prompting the Oslo Government to promise a crackdown on offshoots of American motorcycle clans.

A Nordic vendetta between the two gangs has festered since 1993 when the Bandidos first began to challenge the Hell's Angels for dominance in the region. A member of the Red Necks, who are affiliated to the Hell's Angels, died in a gunfight with Bandidos in Sweden in 1994, and two Bandidos were killed in Sweden and Finland in the following two years.

Full-scale territorial war erupted in March last year when gunmen outside Copenhagen international airport killed a Bandidos leader and wounded three others.

After a spate of anti-tank missile, grenade, bomb and gun attacks on biker clubhouses in built-up areas last summer, the Danish parliament passed emergency legislation giving police sweeping powers to tackle the gangs.

Time is right for Blair to do business with the Red-Green class of '68

A *Guardian* editorial last week urged the Government to abandon the Eurofighter and shop in Moscow. "Why not, if Britain needs to replace its Tornados now, buy Russian planes which (unlike the Eurofighter) are militarily proven and would have the added benefit of boosting the Russian economy?"

Why not, indeed? Why not become entirely dependent on Russian spare parts? Why not, in the name of moral foreign policy, contribute to Russia's future as a global arms exporter? We have been far too slow in transferring British jobs to Sverdlovsk.

INSIDE

Roger Boyes

GERMANY

Despite the appearance of panic — Tony Blair and George Robertson in Bonn lobbying hard for the plane — there is no immediate threat

to the Eurofighter. If the Germans can fiddle their way into the euro, they can certainly concoct a way of covering the fighter for 1998. The Eurofighter, unlike the single currency, might actually dent the unemployment figures. There is a real concern about the post-Kohl era and the nature of promises being made in Bonn. The opposition Social Democrats and the Greens are rapidly gathering strength and, at the parliamentary level at least, are beginning to co-ordinate policy. For the first time, a Red-Green government is beginning to look like a real alternative to Helmut Kohl's

disintegrating coalition. A left-leaning administration — despite the best efforts of the likely challenger for the Chancellery, Gerhard Schröder — would favour an integrated "social" Europe. Bonn would bubble with costly job-creation schemes and European eco-laws.

Mr Blair can talk deregulation and flexible employment with Herr Kohl. But the foreign, industrial, financial, environmental and defence policies of a post-Kohl Red-Green administration would present problems for the British. If Mr Blair wants to readjust the balance of Anglo-German relations to British advantage, now is the time to act — in the dog days of the Kohl team.

The most likely Kohl succession scenario was that an economic recovery in 1998 would allow the Chancellor to rally support and, though weakened, he would survive elections — but only by dint of a grand coalition with the Social Democrats.

Wolfgang Schäuble, the Chancellor's right-hand man, would put this coalition together and eventually take over from Herr Kohl. The Free Democrats, by insisting on a tax-cutting profile, have

denied themselves the traditional role of kingmaker. They can no longer flee to the side of the Social Democrats. This scenario never quite took into account the effect on Herr Kohl's fortunes of a delayed or a fudged euro.

Now it is precisely the bungling of the euro debate that has tilted the balance in favour of Red-Green. Most Germans today credit the Social Democrats with greater budgetary management skills than the Government. Opinion polls fluctuate, but they give the Social Democrats close to 40 per cent of the vote and the Greens about 14 per cent. If the lead holds,

Herr Kohl will be thrashed. There is a sense in Bonn that the real divisions are no longer Left-Right, or modernisers versus conservatives but rather old versus young.

The number of Germans over the age of 60 is rising rapidly. Their pensions have to be paid by the shrinking, embittered younger generation. Older people are now turning to the Social Democrats for protection, the younger to the Greens. A Red-Green government can therefore claim to be a socially integrative force. Herr Kohl is 66 and re-

members his Marshall Plan food packages. The top Social Democrats and Greens are close to 50 and they matured politically during the student upheavals of 1968. Rock stars may be keeling over at this age, but to German voters they still seem young — and suddenly respectable.

Oskar Lafontaine has married his lover, Herr Schröder is about to marry his mistress, Joschka Fischer, the Green leader, has been left by his wife but has lost 10kg of surplus padding and now wears a jacket and tie. This is how the 1968ers prepare for power. The handover is approaching.

Budget stalemate threatens to wreck Kohl coalition

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL'S government coalition could break up over the next four weeks unless new ways are found to plug the budget deficit.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, delivered this dramatic message at the weekend when he warned other members of the government: "None of the coalition partners can afford to play tactical games on this matter." His remarks, delivered to an unusually appreciative audience of fellow Christian Social Union members, were aimed chiefly at the Free Democrats, the junior coalition partners, who have resisted tax increases.

The idea that Herr Kohl's government might be on the brink of collapse has also been nourished by an internal memorandum circulating in the Chancellor's office. The memo has none of the upbeat phrases usually associated with briefings for the Chancellor. Herr Kohl, it says, is "in a particularly serious situation". Even the German press, which normally sleeps through crises, has become aware of brewing trouble.

The Government has to introduce a supplementary

budget for 1997 to make up for a £7 billion shortfall in tax revenues caused by record unemployment. Herr Waigel this week begins negotiations with the other parties and ministers to make the necessary savings. One cut will be in the agency that runs labour exchanges: this will almost certainly entail further cuts in dole payments.

Even the most optimistic analysis, however, cannot fathom a way out of the crisis. New borrowing is rejected because the constitution limits how many new credits can be taken out, and because such a move would throw Bonn completely off track for European economic and monetary union. Tax increases are out because the Free Democrats threaten to bring down the government if there is an upward movement. And delaying EMU is also out of the question.

Everything will come to a head by the beginning of July — hence Herr Waigel's prophecy — because then the equally vulnerable 1998 budget has to be presented to cabinet.

The Chancellor's tactics over the coming months — as

budget and EMU problems close in on his government — are slowly becoming clear. Much hope is being invested in an economic recovery which may help to ease the record levels of unemployment. The immediate goal in coming months is to push unemployment to below four million: it is currently sticking to around 4.25 million.

In September, Herr Kohl plans a cabinet reshuffle. One plan is to make Herr Waigel foreign minister, his personal ambition but also the dearest wish of Herr Waigel's party, the Christian Social Union, which believes it stands to lose hundreds of thousands of votes as long as it is identified with a deeply unpopular Finance Minister.

But the switch would have an additional advantage: only Herr Waigel is identified with the phrase that Germany must make exactly the 3 per cent of gross domestic product public deficit target for EMU — that is, not by 3.1 per cent or by 3.2 per cent. The minister repeated the pledge at the weekend, though other government politicians seem to be ready to beat a retreat.



An employee of Zimbabwe's National Parks and Wildlife Management holds up the massive tusks of a bull elephant in an ivory store in Harare. Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia are seeking a partial lifting of the 1989 world ban on ivory trade to enable them to sell tusks culled from their 150,000-strong herd. But they fear

Plea for secret ivory vote

that a public vote at this week's meeting of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites), in Harare, is unlikely to produce a fair result (Nick Nuttall writes). They are pressing for a secret ballot to decide whether

the worldwide ban should be lifted. Wildlife officials in Zimbabwe claim some nations receiving aid from Western countries, including the United States which opposes lifting of the ban, would be too intimidated to vote for a resumption if the

ballot is made public. The three African states want to sell stockpiled ivory to Japan, which is backing them. Britain is concerned that a partial lifting will encourage poachers and that it will be impossible to know if the cargo to Japan is old ivory or from freshly killed animals.

Leading article, page 21

Russian death rate alarms doctors

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S leading doctors gave a warning at the weekend that the nation was dying on its feet, with the death rate climbing, the birthrate shrinking and the Government doing nothing to help the collapsing medical services.

In one of the darkest diagnoses of the state of Russia's health, 1,700 senior physicians, attending a medical conference in Moscow, concluded in a resolution: "Russia is losing its main state asset — its citizens."

According to statistics Russia's population of 150 million is shrinking by about one million a year with the death rate outrunning the birth rate by 1.6 times.

The doctors were so concerned that they sent a letter to Viktor Chernoomyrdin, the Prime Minister, stating that the Government no longer fulfilled its legal obligation to provide free medical care. They have threatened to take the authorities to court over the issue and are planning nationwide protest action next weekend.

Russian men are the category most at risk. Because of alcoholism, smoking, stress and poor medical care the life expectancy of the average Russian male stands at 58, about 15 years below men living in Western Europe.

Although free medical care is a right enshrined for every Russian citizen under the constitution, in reality public health service has virtually ceased to exist. An acquaintance who needed an emergency heart operation recently had to pay several thousand pounds to undergo tests, surgery and follow-up treatment. If he had not been able to afford the costs, he would certainly have died.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

Croatia 'peace train' stoned

FROM TOM WALKER IN VUKOVAR

PRESIDENT TUDJMAN of Croatia yesterday defied United Nations advice and took a "train of peace" to his country's remaining Serb region, Eastern Slavonia.

However, after the ailing Croatian leader made a plea for reconciliation between Croats and Serbs in the devastated city of Vukovar, his train was stoned by a mob. About 140,000 Serbs in Eastern Slavonia fear that

they may be forced from the region when it reverts to Croatian rule next month. Mr Tudjman described the visit, during his re-election campaign, as an act of friendship to unite the country. "We cannot only pray, we also have to forgive," he said at Vukovar's ruined railway station. "We want a peaceful common life."

Serbs were barred by about 1,500 UN soldiers from attending the speech. But despite the peacekeepers' presence, a group of between 20 and 30

men stoned the train as it was leaving Vukovar, breaking at least seven windows, witnesses said.

Josipa Lisac, a Croatian jazz singer, was in one of the compartments where flying stones made people duck and lie on the floor. She said nobody was seriously hurt.

The visit had been opposed by Jacques Klein, the UN administrator in the region.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

ANZ

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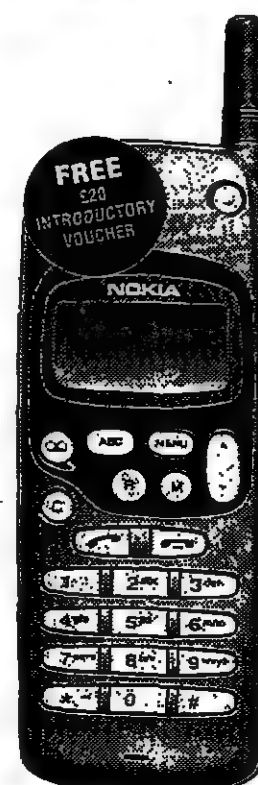
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Searching for signs of life: Professor Colin Pillinger, one of the prime movers behind European attempts to investigate the Red Planet

All aboard for Mars

If life has existed anywhere in the solar system apart from our planet, you can be confident that Colin Pillinger will help to unearth it. He has dedicated his professional life to the cause — his first university job was to study Moon rock, and he was involved in the announcement last November that a Martian meteorite once contained primitive life forms. His hour of glory may be near.

Pillinger, Professor of Planetary Science at the Open University, and Professor Alan Wells, of Leicester University, are the prime movers behind European attempts to mount a quickfire mission to Mars — the *Mars Express* — in 2003. Their efforts to persuade colleagues to take up the search seem to have paid off — in Paris last week, the European Space Agency (ESA) gave the go-ahead for the scientists to solicit proposals for the mission.

The launch may lie six years away, but that is extremely short notice. Normally, a major space mission would be about a decade in the planning. The reason for the urgency is down to the planets — a fortuitous planetary arrangement that falls around May 2003 would allow a larger payload than normal to make the journey to Mars. In Professor Pillinger's eyes, this provides the perfect opportunity to send a lander module to touch down on the planet's surface. The lander would be equipped to inspect down to a depth of 1.5 metres for organic material, the carbon-containing stuff of life. It has not gone

Anjana Ahuja meets Colin Pillinger, the football-loving professor with an urgent mission

unnoticed that should the mission come to fruition, the Europeans will have beaten the Americans in the race to carry out such a search, although ESA has not ruled out joining forces with Nasa.

Mars Express has "gaterashed" its way to the top of the ESA agenda, a fact begrudged by scientists on rival projects. But Professor Pillinger is unrepentant. "This is what people care about. When I talk to them, they only ever want to know if there was once life on Mars."

"I passionately believe that conditions on Mars were once conducive to life," he says. He points out that certain life forms, called extremophiles, can thrive in spectacularly harsh conditions. "Some can hibernate at temperatures well below zero, and there is tentative evidence for life at 150°C. How much more tenacious can you get?"

Mars is indeed a hostile world. The fourth planet from the Sun has an atmosphere composed largely of carbon dioxide, but atmospheric pressure is only a few thousandths of that on Earth. The temperature is around freezing, and plummeting to -140°C at night. The fine dust on its surface is often whipped up by winds blowing at 325kph.

The planet has played host to guests before. In 1976, Nasa sent two Viking landers to scour the surface for signs of life, without success. A Russian mission, *Mars 96*, was due to follow in Viking's footsteps but exploded on the launchpad. Surprisingly, its demise could provide the lifeblood for the *Mars Express*. Professor Pillinger says: "We know the Russians have built a lander. We have been in touch and are meeting scientists in Russia at the end of the month to discuss ideas."

ESA will provide £123 million for the launch, an orbiting probe and mission operations, but a lander would have to be funded separately.

At 54, the professor seems perfectly suited to the role of animated academic, with his wayward hair and lilac shirt. His justifications for seeking extraterrestrial life are delivered in a thick Bristol accent: he spent his childhood there, listening to the cult radio programme *Journey Into Space*. He went on to study chemistry at Swansea University. During his PhD, he noticed an advertisement for an unusual job at the University of Bristol.

"It was in 1968, a year before the Apollo programme started," he says. "Bristol

wanted someone who was into organic mass spectroscopy to analyse lunar rock." Professor Pillinger got the job on the spot and moved back to Bristol, where he met his wife, Judy, now a researcher in his department. He later decamped to Cambridge University, and was lured to his present leafy campus in 1984. He has been professor at the OU since 1991. He is also Gresham Professor of Astronomy, which entails delivering six public lectures in London each year. When not watching football, he can be found tending his 30-acre farm in Cambridge. "Everything comes second to football," he says.

Professor Pillinger began to focus seriously on the Red Planet after he was invited to apply his lunar expertise to a Martian meteorite, called EETA 79001, in the mid-Eighties. Together with Dr Monica Grady and Dr Ian Wright, the husband and wife team now at the Natural History Museum, Professor Pillinger discovered organic material inside the meteorite. They published their results in *Nature* but stopped short of saying they had found evidence of life.

Then came AH84001, the meteorite discovered in Antarctica, which also boasted this tell-tale organic signature. That momentous announcement was underpinned by a very simple measurement concerning the ratio of two isotopes of carbon (isotopes are

slightly different forms of the same element). The rock under our feet is a record of the life around it. In terrestrial rock, the ratio of carbon-12 to carbon-13, as the isotopes are known, is approximately 92 to 1. So, for every carbon-13 atom in the rock sample, there are 92 carbon-12 atoms.

However, in rocks which have not ever seen life, such as lunar chunks and most Martian meteorites, the ratio is 89 to 1. This is where the sophisticated chemistry — and the Pillinger expertise — comes in. Professor Pillinger is "extremely hopeful" that *Mars Express* will make it to the launchpad. Would it please him to beat the Americans? "It's nice to win. Nobody would deny that."

□ Potato threat □ Space find □ Cave secrets

Blight marches on

THE potato famine of the 1840s lives on in Irish memories, the cause of more than a million deaths and a huge exodus to the New World.

Recently, the Prime Minister issued an apology for Britain's role in the affair, acknowledging that more might have been done to help. But a paper in this month's *BioScience* makes what many scientists may feel is a more salient point.

Far from being merely a historical irritant in Anglo-Irish relations, the organism that caused the famine is doing real damage in North America — and could yet cause hunger, if not famine, in the Third World. Potato blight is caused by a fungus-like organism called *Phytophthora infestans*, which can turn a field of potatoes brown in a few days. It is thought to have reached the US from Mexico, but it spread slowly at first because only one of its mating types appears to have crossed the Rio Grande. That meant the organism had to reproduce asexually, cramping its style and making it easy meat for the fungicide metalaxyl. Farmers could control it by spraying at the first sign. "It was a disease that potato-growers didn't take seriously," Dr Stephen Goodwin, a plant pathologist from Purdue University in Indiana, told *BioScience*.

The arrival of more resistant strains from Mexico, plus the second mating type, changed the situation. This meant that the



SCIENCE BRIEFING

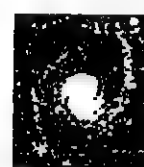
Nigel Hawkes

organism could develop resistance to the fungicide more easily. Since the late 1970s, say Dr Goodwin and Dr Bill Fry from Cornell University, this resistance has increased. In 1985, only California had these resistant strains, but by 1995 they were in 31 American states and eight Canadian provinces. Eight strains have been reported, with three more new ones awaiting confirmation. They can destroy a potato field in less than two weeks. "It's the most explosive disease I have ever seen," says Dr Goodwin. So far, fungicides designed for other plants have been pressed into service with moderate success. Ciba, the agrochemical company, has been given permission by the US Department of Agriculture to sell several other fungicides for use on potatoes.

But the situation in Central America indicates that this process may have its limits. The resistant strains have existed there for years and are controlled only by spraying ever-higher doses of fungicides.

Today, no country in the West is as dependent on potatoes as the Irish were in the 19th century, so the dangers of famine posed by the blight are much less. But there are still many countries in Africa and Asia where potatoes are a major part of the diet. If the organism continues spreading, it could cause problems that even an apology from Tony Blair would fail to cure.

Super-fibre that is made in space



ENTHUSIASTS for manned space travel have long claimed that the zero-gravity conditions aboard spacecraft will provide the conditions for producing useful materials that cannot be made on Earth. So far, they have been short of actual examples, but now at last comes ZBLAN, an optical fibre material with the ability to carry 100 times as much data as today's fibres.

ZBLAN was invented by French researchers in 1974, and is named after the elements it contains: zirconium, barium, lanthanum, aluminium and sodium (Na to chemists). The material is transparent in the infra-red region of the spectrum, opening up a new energy range for communication.

When it is made on Earth, ZBLAN tends to crystallise, which is the last thing you want a glass to do. But made in zero gravity, it remains glassy and transparent. "It's really fascinating stuff," says Dr Dennis Tucker of the US space agency Nasa's Marshall Space Flight Centre. "Most of my colleagues perform experiments in space in order to make very high-quality crystals. But ZBLAN doesn't crystallise." So space manufacture may have a future, after all.

A little drip's history lesson



THE stalagmites and stalactites of the Soreq Cave in Israel have a tale to tell. When analysed for the isotopes they contain, say Dr Aaron Kaufman of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovoth and his colleagues, a record of eastern Mediterranean rainfall and vegetation over the past 58,000 years.

The scientists can age the samples from the amounts of uranium-234 and thorium-230 they contain. When first formed by dripping water laden with calcium carbonate, they contain only uranium-234, which slowly decays to thorium-230. By measuring the ratio of the two isotopes, the stalagmites and stalactites can be accurately dated.

To get climatic information from them, successive layers are analysed for stable isotopes known to be a function of specific rainfall and temperature conditions, including the ratios of carbon-13 to carbon-12, and oxygen-18 to oxygen-16. The results, reported in *Quaternary Research*, show that from 58,000 to 20,000 years ago, the region was dry and cool. After that there were some sharp climatic fluctuations until about 6,000 years ago, when today's climatic pattern was established.

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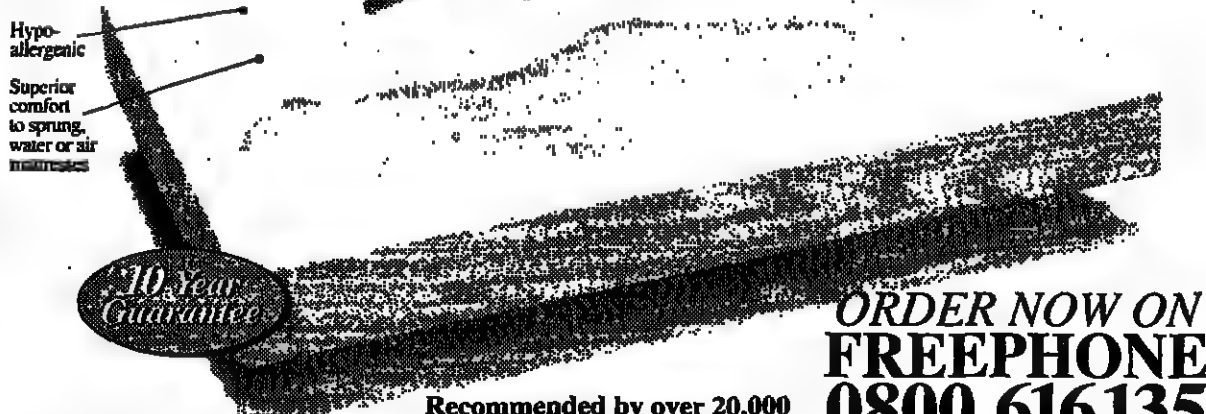
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Irvine: a taste for pasta and puddings



Happy eaters, left to right: Letitia Cash likes Marlboro Lights and fizzy water; Derek Draper, loved by New Labour, fish and strong black coffee; David Mellor, good fun at lunch; and Sir Tim Bell, mingles between the tables

Inkfish to pasta: Philip Delves Broughton on the eating habits of the good, the bold and the hungry

followed by rack of lamb. Drinks: vodka tonic, beer, red wine and Fernet Branca. Lunches with: Alan Watkins, Bruce Anderson, David Mellor, Giannandrea Poesio, *The Spectator's* ballet critic, any of his latest *amitiés amoureuses*.

Habits: used to have the same lunch in Simpson's every day, before moving to *The Spectator*, where he can scum down in a private dining room with his deputy editor.

JOHN HUMPHRIES
Presenter of *Radio 4's Today* programme.
Goes to: The Brackenbury in Shepherd's Bush, the canteen for BBC staff round the corner in White City, Nico Central in Langham Place (preferred by big BBC wheels).
Eats: fish off the bone.
Drinks: nothing.
Lunches with: his producer, researchers from the show, younger journalists.
Afterwards: having got up at 4am, he retires home after lunch for a siesta.

MICHAEL WHITE
Theatre producer.
Goes to: The Ivy, Andrew Edmunds, L'incontro, Japanese restaurants.
Eats: health foods, salads, pops, regular wheatgrass supplements.
Drinks: beer, wine, all in moderation.
Lunches with: Hollywood stars, from Jack Nicholson to Richard Gere, fellow impres-

arios, lots of young women. Likes: a quick lunch. "It's all so professional these days, you just haven't got time to linger." Prefers to don his large velvet greatcoat for a full evening's entertainment, ends by dancing the Macarena in Trump.

PAMELA LADY HARLECH
Chairman of English National Ballet; trustee of the V&A.
Goes to: The Ivy, Orso, Launceston Place.
Eats: Bang bang chicken.
Drinks: Perrier water.
Lunches with: Derek Dean, ENB director, Sir Roy Strong, Diana, Princess of Wales, Lord Snowdon.
Habits: stays regally in place while others come to greet her in the cattle market of The Ivy. One of the cultural scene's *grandes dames*. Not an air-kisser.

SIR TIM BELL
PR man.
Goes to: Mark Birley's two private restaurants, Harry's bar and Mark's Club, the Windows Piano Bar in the Park Lane Hilton.
Eats: inkfish risotto, fishcakes, white truffle pasta.
Drinks: Prosecco or champagne. Fresh mint tea at Harry's Bar.
Lunches with: Lord King of Wartraby, Baroness Thatcher, Gordon Reece, Prince Michael of Kent.
Loves to: mingle between tables and leave his chauffeur-driven Mercedes purring outside throughout lunch.



Soumes: Guinness to finish

LORD IRVINE OF LAIRG
The Lord Chancellor.
Goes to: dining rooms in the Inns of Court, takes juniors to Orso in Covent Garden, the Garrick Club.
Eats: steak and kidney puddings, rich pastas, puddings.
Drinks: not claret-shy, has a famously well stocked cellar.
Lunches with: fellow wigs, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the new Solicitor-General.
Reputation: asked last year by a fellow Garrick member who he was, declared: "I'm the next Lord Chancellor." Has been known to finish dinner standing on the table.

DAVID MELLOR
Former Tory MP for Putney.
Goes to: Langan's Brasserie, Pont de la Tour, Shepherd's, Le Caprice.

Eats: three courses, cholesterol not a problem.
Drinks: Champagne, not one to overrule demands for just one more bottle.
Lunches with: Michael Caine, Sir David Frost, Ken Bates, owner of Chelsea Football Club, John Gummer.
Reputation: by all accounts, and despite the reputation, very good fun at lunch. Gossipy, engaging, with a very loud laugh.

BRUCE ANDERSON
Deputy editor of *The Spectator*.
Goes to: Rules, Sunbury, Simpson's, Wiltons.
Eats: lobster, high game and steamed puddings.
Drinks: demijohns of whatever's on offer. A weakness for grands crus.
Lunches with: Cabinet ministers, young Conservatives he thinks are going places, daughters of the Tory squirearchy, and anyone else who can stand the pace.
Advice when sitting next to him: ask to be moved.
Does he get the bill when in gainful employment is generous with his expense account.

RUUD GULLIT
Chelsea manager.
Goes to: L'incontro, Santinis, smart Knightsbridge Italians.
Eats: risotto, pasta, no puddings.
Drinks: grape juice: gets upset if it's not available.
Lunches with: his girlfriend (Johann Cruyff's niece), Gianfranco Zola, Roberto di Matteo, sometimes on his own.
Manners: firm, yet polite. The sort to venture off-menu in search of the right balance of food groups.

KENNETH CLARKE
Former Chancellor and Tory leadership challenger.
Goes to: Nico at 90.
Eats: steak tartare with chips, raw meat a favourite.
Lunches with: Peter Temple-Morris, MP, Phillip Oppenheim and George Melly.
Risks: some loose talk with two BBC journalists just before the election landed him in hot water. Though perhaps he meant it.

LORD ROGERS OF RIVERSIDE
Architect.
Goes to: The River Café, next door to his Hammersmith office. Designed by him, run by his wife, has graduated from being his office canteen into a whole culinary industry in itself.
Eats: Parmesan-topped salads, £20-a-dish Italian peasant food.
Drinks: mineral water, crisp white wines to match his crisp white linen shirts.
Lunches with: fellow architects, Alan Yentob and his wife Philippa Walker, Matthew Evans, head of Faber & Faber, Peter Mandelson.
Likes to: line up cutlery and let his smile unfold slowly.

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TEN RULES FOR EATING OUT IN THE NINETIES

- 1. LUNCH EARLY.** The most chic lunches now start between 12.15 and 12.30, thus allowing for more rapid and attentive service and, with departure at around 2pm, neatly by-passing the three o'clock rush for taxis.
- 2. LUNCH LIGHT.** There are few more unattractive sights than someone trudging at lunch. Only a person with the social graces of Saddam Hussein thinks that lunch is a part of the nutritional process. It is, instead, an exercise in posturing.
- 3. LUNCH BLAND.** Never eat highly seasoned or exotic food for lunch. Risotto nero may be very tasty but it turns your mouth, lips and napkin black. Anything with whole cloves of garlic should be avoided.
- 4. LUNCH TIDY.** Avoid anything that involves too much effort or special equipment, like lobster crackers, bibs or finger bowls — it is bound to be messy, time-consuming and injurious to your dignity. Curry is not a lunch option, some of it is bound to end up on your expensive silk tie.
- 5. LUNCH SMART.** If you are unable to identify a dish on the menu, never display your ignorance by asking what it is. Instead ask "How is it served?"
- 6. LUNCH DRY.** Booze is difficult. Ask for the wine list and your companion might think you are a lush, call for the Evian and you risk being thought puritanical. Instead, press wine upon your companion while claiming to be a recovering alcoholic.
- 7. LUNCH REGULAR.** If hosting lunch, choose a restaurant where you are known. To be greeted by name is a comforting feeling.
- 8. LUNCH POLITE.** It is no longer considered clever to treat waiting staff as if they were sub-human.
- 9. LUNCH SHORT.** Pudding is extinct at many lunches. Arriving late and leaving early is a mark of one's incredible importance and supremely hectic schedule.
- 10. LUNCH HONEST.** If splitting the bill, do not then snaffle the receipt and put it on your expenses... this is just plain mean.

NICK FOULKES

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART

Miniatures of the Hindu deity Krishna go on show at the Whitechapel
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ MUSIC

At the Barbican Bernard Haitink conducts the Chamber Orchestra of Europe
CONCERT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ THEATRE

Leslie Caron makes her debut on the Chichester stage in *Nocturne for Lovers*
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ DANCE

Birmingham Royal Ballet steps out to Duke Ellington in *Nutcracker Sweeties* at Covent Garden
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

Close to the edge

THEATRE

The Censor Duke of York's

THERE is evidently no limit to what the Royal Court boys will do to create unusual spaces within their theatres. Eviscerating the stalls, placing an audience on the stage and actors in the auditorium, dividing one of the smallest West End theatres horizontally into two even smaller theatres: those are just last year's tricks.

When you descend to the stalls for Anthony Neilson's play, transferred from the pocket-sized Finborough, you will glance at the empty rows and assume there is time for several drinks in the cyclamen-painted bar. Don't be misled by that emptiness. The audience has already been ushered through the curtain to where, from three rows of seats occupying the front of the stage, they will watch three actors at the rear of it.

Julian McGowan's black set, fiercely cross-lit (by Jo Joelson), bare of all furniture but three chairs and a desk, is an ingenious way of recreating at a bigger venue the intimacy of a fringe environment. The production team

may have feared they would have difficulty filling an unaltered Duke of York's with a play that included scenes of masturbation, defecation and missionary coition: a play's intensity can be painfully diluted by enlargement.

In his 80-minute play Neilson is not addressing directly the matter of Censorship, For and Against, but presents us with the deeply anxious personality of one particular, fairly junior and unnamed film censor. A director has made a film consisting of one sex act after another; no dialogue, no evident narrative or subtext, just the fundamental activity.

Alastair Galbraith's feebly unresourceful Censor sees it as your basic hardcore pornography, with no hope of a licence for public viewing. The director (Raquel Cassidy), al-

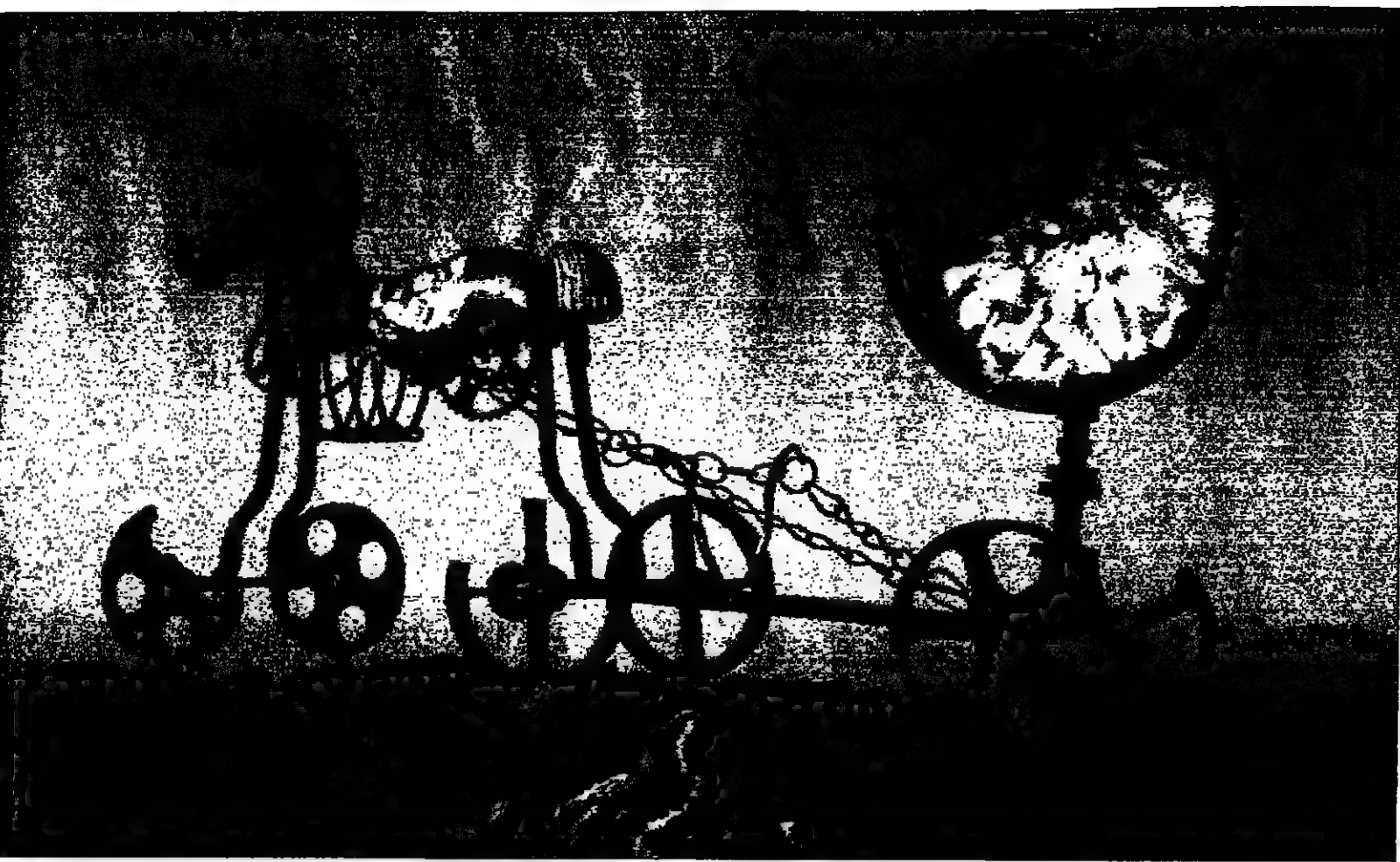
ways addressed by him as "Miss Fontaine" despite the intimacy of their subsequent activity, endeavours to show him otherwise.

She calls him "Mr Censor", and inevitably what he is really censoring are his own wishes, the mucky longings he is too ashamed to own up to a partner, which have led to impotence in the marriage bed and a long career as a paid voyeur. The scenes in his office are interspersed with excerpts from a bleak conversation with his wife (Alison Newman) about her lover, a mostly one-sided conversation since he is virtually incapable of making a contribution.

Neilson is a strong dramatist, one of that group of Royal Court writers who combine the desire to work on taboo subjects with a feeling for the theatrical effect of suspense, surprise and verbal precision. His own direction conveys these qualities, through lengthy pauses, shock revelations and dialogue uninterested in euphemism.

JEREMY KINGSTON

VISUAL ART: Isabel Carlisle finds there's more to Cornish creativity than St Ives



The zany *Trundler Sun* by David Kemp, from his "museum" at the Count House, Botallack, one of 14 themed sites on the Cornish peninsula

Bright lights at Land's End

Arts institutions on the tip of the Cornish peninsula are united in a venture that has shaken up local ideas of what art is all about. Radically unlike the paintings and sculpture of the St Ives and Newlyn artists, *A Quality of Light* is a combination of gallery exhibitions and site-specific installations. Fourteen artists have created work for natural and industrial settings, taking the ever-changing quality of Cornish light as their theme.

From the Hayle river to St Ives, along the coast road past Zennor to Gevor tin mine and Botallack, then passing Land's End to reach Porthcurno, Newlyn and the Penzance and St Erth railway stations, the treeless expanses of moor edged by cliffs and the sea provide spectacular links between the series of installations.

Mona Hatoum, a candidate for the Turner Prize in 1995, uses 241 lightbulbs in a work called *Current Disturbance* in the darkened upper room of the Newlyn Art Gallery. Caught and isolated like battery chickens in a square block

of wood and wire cages, each is wired to a central junction box. As changing combinations of bulbs dim and brighten in sequence, an amplifier picks up the sound of the electric current and broadcasts an aggressive din on three notes that sounds like grinding on a metal lathe. In the pleasure and pain that it gives it heightens its own dislocation with the Cornish setting.

Paul Ramirez Jones is a Californian artist who brings early and modern technology together, creating his artistic buzz from the gap between then and now. At Porthcurno, which in the 1870s was one of the first telegraph stations, he has turned a darkened room into a combination of box

camera interior, a large-screen computerised colour analysis of a digitised photo of the landscape outside, and a transmitting station for the Internet. The concept of information communication is a chilly one, unlike the inverted image of the grassy slope and sea outside with clouds passing underneath, beamed from a pinhole in the far wall.

Equally haunting is the sight of two workers in the abandoned shed of Gevor tin mine stirring the different coloured pools of water created by Glen Onwri for his work *Blood of the Pelican*. The concrete floor is rubbed pink with dust from the iron-rich tin ore, and the four levels of pools are coloured black with coal dust, white with

china clay, red with iron ore and yellow with pottery clay.

In the Tate St Ives a new display leads through works on the theme of light by first-generation St Ives artists to the long curving gallery looking towards the sea, where Roger Ackling has installed *Sunlight and Wind, Porthmeor Beach*. The ten sheets of grey card spaced along the back wall each have eight horizontal lines seared into them by focusing the rays of the sun through a magnifying glass. They are the backdrop to a single white vase by Bernard Leach, the whole evoking a pale, metaphysical stage set.

Also quiet in tone, at a distance James Huggon's paintings have a greyish pallor. Close up, a mosaic of

delicate colours within a matrix of silver-point lines comes into focus and patterns like waves or dunes begin to appear. But they can verge on the irritatingly ethereal, and it is hard to resist the call of Mondrian's *Composition with Red, Yellow and Black* seen in the far gallery through the doorway.

This has been chosen by Bridget Riley to hang with five of her own works. In stripes, elongated chevrons and twisting waves of colour, her paintings make the light in this small room vibrate. As the sharp edges and bright ochres, mid blues, pinks and greens in the 1997 Riley make the shapes spring forward or recede, the Mondrian sings along with it, buzzing with white light.

There are too many artists in the official programme to describe individually, although the zaniness of David Kemp's *Art of Darkness Museum* and the surprises of Martina Kramer's paper *Light Lines* are both delicious.

● *A Quality of Light* is on until July 27. For map and access information phone St Ives International 01739 333024, fax 01739 333074

One for the girls

POP

Boyzone Wembley Arena

clearly a girl thing: boyfree zone would be a better description of this congregation.

The screamfest was in full swing long before the group arrived in cybersuits and helmets, as the video screens showed the latest Boyzone commercial placement, advertising a product aimed at their core market. Sugar Puffs. Even an advertisement for their next Wembley appearance, in November, elicited an ecstatic-sounding response.

For the lads themselves, this must have been a glimpse of Beatle life circa 1965. As their aspirations grow more sophisticated, one can imagine Boyzone looking back on their touring years and viewing them, as Lennon came to, as an ultimately futile musical venture. Sing and they scream; cough and they still scream. The trick is to keep smiling for the ever-attentive

video cameras, and this they do with charm and the strong hint that they are still enjoying the circus.

minutes with aplomb and long-distance charisma. There were moments of cabaret including a Bee Gees-inspired disco sequence, a rather needless inclusion from a group with two hugely successful albums and eight consecutive Top Five singles of their own. Songs like the impending ninth, *Picture Of You* (performed here) will further establish Boyzone's individuality, as long as those screaming supporters let them be heard.

PAUL SEXTON

"JERRY THE GENIUS"

"JERRY INTERRUPTS HIS SOFT SHOE SHUFFLE NUMBER WITH A CANE-CATCHING, CANE-DROPPING ROUTINE OF SHEER SASSY GENIUS ... ABSOLUTE PERFECTION!"

Daily Mail

JERRY LEWIS IN DAMN YANKEES

"APRIL NIXON THE DEVIL'S WONDERFULLY SEXY SIDEKICK LOLA"

Daily Telegraph

"INDECENTLY ENTERTAINING"

Daily Telegraph

"THE SONGS ARE A JOY FOREVER"

Daily Mail

"LUDICROUSLY ENJOYABLE. THE KIND OF MUSICAL THEY DON'T WRITE ANY MORE. I HEARTILY WISHED THEY DID"

Daily Telegraph

"AN OUTSTANDING AMERICAN CAST"

Daily Telegraph

"DAMN YANKEES IS DAMN GOOD"

The Independent

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directed by JOHN CONNERY
scripted by TIM HATLEY
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Why the Tories stayed on the shelf

Charles Lewington offers a sales strategy for a new leader

Tony Blair's campaign was laid out for all to see in a document called *The American Presidential Election 1992 - what can Labour learn?* It was leaked to us at Conservative Central Office two years ago. Compiled by a number of Walworth Road staffers who spent months with the Clinton/Gore campaign. It all sounds rather familiar.

It states: "The following key points had to be made whatever the issue, speech, questionnaire, press briefing or leaflet being written. It's time for change: Bush's failed leadership; Bill Clinton is the man with a plan to make things better and restore the American dream; Bush is out of touch with normal people, while Clinton will do right by the middle class; Bill Clinton is young and dynamic, a new kind of Democrat from a new generation; Bill Clinton promises a new covenant/partnership with the American people - the Government will play its part, but in return, American families and communities must do their bit too."

Substitute Major for Bush, Blair for Clinton, replace "make things better" with "Britain deserves better" and add every radio and TV interview to the required list of message vehicles, and you have Labour's 1997 general election campaign. No novelty here, no original Mandelsonian thinking. Just the ruthless application of a tried and tested formula.

The Clintonisation of British politics was a rather distasteful development for the Conservative Party. The repetitive use of soundbites was almost frowned on. "The British public won't be taken in by them," some senior Tories would say to me. Twenty-two Tory tax rises? Pahl! Nobody will be fooled. Until, that is, the BBC's Robin Oakley or ITN's Michael Brunson started describing this spurious list of tax rises (which cynically excluded the later tax reductions) as a political "problem" for the Conservatives.

On the back of Michael Portillo's "SAS" speech at the 1995 party conference, Labour accused the Conservatives of lurching to the Right. I vividly recall Tony Blair first using the phrase on the *Today* programme. Two months later a substantial majority of voters in one opinion poll described Virginia Bottomley as a rightwinger. Again, there was nothing original here. The Democrats flung the same charge at the Republicans' pessimistic, "pro-life" national convention in Houston in 1992.

We understood all this at Central Office. We had an instant rebuttal unit, messages of the day, on-the-hour "lines to take" and all Cabinet ministers had their own press briefings to tell everyone who was listening. Some understood the importance of a co-ordinated message. Others - particularly our ageing party activists - did not.

It is a simplistic argument that governments always lose elections and oppositions never win them. Clearly there

were times when we looked as if we were doing our level best to lose. But I watched every prime-time news bulletin during the campaign with admiration at the disciplined way Labour delivered its messages. You have to conclude that the Opposition played a substantial part in our downfall.

We did have a strong economic message - Britain is booming and Labour will blow it. But good messages are worthless unless the whole choir is singing from the same hymn sheet.

Watching the leadership contest from the sidelines and listening to the talk of changing policy, intellectual renewal and the need to dufl up Tony Blair in the Commons, I can't help feeling that we are in danger of losing the plot.

A new form of political campaigning has arrived from America. If we Conservatives can't beat New Labour our way, should we join it? Do we embrace the showbiz style that is turning Downing Street into "the street of the people"? Will the next Tory leader pose with his kids in trainers or display his wife's shoe-tidly for the cameras? If we are accused of lurching to the Left under Ken Clarke, what can we expect by way of pithy rebuttal on *News at Ten*?

If we are up against a "new generation" of politicians running Britain and a "can-do" Government, do we then become "new Conservatives" and a "can-unravel" Opposition? Or are we to gamble that in five years' time, the electorate will have seen through the public relations enterprise which is New Labour and plump for the good old Tories - the real product? If I were a Conservative MP, these are questions I would want answered.

I always compared our party's difficulties with those of Sainsbury's. Once the brand leader, we were beaten by the political equivalent of Tesco, complete with a Reward Card in the form of five key policy pledges. Reward was, indeed, one of Peter Mandelson's watchwords.

Like any company in trouble, we should dispatch our new party chairman to Harvard Business School for a refresher course rather than rely on instinct. He would be advised to take a long, hard look at his opponents' marketing techniques and decide how best to win back customer loyalty, even if it meant using the same methods. He will certainly confront the dilemma that faces every marketing director nowadays: are customers any longer capable of loyalty?

The first act of the new leader should be to send the party's brightest to America to study in detail how Clinton was re-elected in 1996 and to ask the Republicans how they might have run their campaign differently. We will then have a better idea of the challenge we shall face in the year 2000.

Charles Lewington was the Conservative Party Director of Communications from 1995 until after the election

Economic reform and growing stability offer the opportunity of a wider European homeland

Eight years ago, when the Berlin Wall was torn down, the world stopped thinking seriously about Russia's world position. China has been the emerging superpower; Europe has shaped its future almost as though Russia did not exist. The overconfident Treaty of Maastricht was signed within two years of the collapse of the Soviet empire. Yet the absence of Russia from European affairs is a temporary accident rather than a permanent change.

In 1913 Russia had the fastest growing economy in Europe: from 1945 to 1989 Russia was the only European superpower. Russia has a population twice that of Germany; Russia still has the world's second largest nuclear arsenal; to discount Russia constitutes the most crass kind of short-termism.

Such an historic force may temporarily be eclipsed, as Germany was after 1945 or France after 1815, but can never be removed from the map. After a catastrophic event, like the defeat of the Nazis or Waterloo, the first decade usually has to be spent on clearing the rubble and preparing the site for national recovery. The German economic miracle, which established Germany's postwar position in Europe, occurred between 1955 and 1970. If Russia follows the same timing, we shall be talking about a Russian economic miracle, or a take-off like that of China, in the decade after the year 2000. That will change the configuration of Europe.

Last Friday I was invited to a small seminar given by Lloyd George Management, which specialises in the emerging markets. Aleksandr Shokhin, the First Deputy Head of the State Duma, spoke on "Russia's new era of capitalism". Mr Shokhin has been one of the leading figures in the Russian economic reform programme of the 1990s. Before entering public life he was a professor of

economics; his English is now excellent, his analysis is powerful. He is probably right in his argument that Russia has now reached the turning point and that the positive phase of economic recovery has been reached. Only a political catastrophe could prevent it, and the Russia of the 1990s has proved very skilful at sidestepping such catastrophes.

Mr Shokhin's view of economic policy is the opposite of that of France's new Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin: France and Russia are like trains passing each other in opposite directions. On the same day Mr Shokhin spoke in London, M Jospin said in Sweden: "If market forces are allowed to let rip, it will spell the end of civilisation in Europe."

Having experienced the old Soviet economy, in which the Communist Party did not let market forces have any freedom, Mr Shokhin's view is that Russia's first task had to be "to create a market environment". Only when that had been done was it possible to restart economic growth. Russia has already reduced state ownership below the French level.

This year economic growth has begun, though only at a very low level, probably about 0.4 per cent. In the past three years Russian inflation has been brought under control in a very impressive way, down from 140 per cent in 1995 to 22 per cent in 1996, to 12 per cent now. It is expected to move further down to the forecast 5 per cent for 1998.

The budget deficit is down to 7 per cent, which would not meet the Maastricht criteria, but is a great improvement on earlier years. Mr Shokhin sees this year's tax reform as the most important part of the new economic development.

The proposed new tax code is designed to broaden the tax base, to reduce rates, to simplify the system and to reduce evasion. At present there are no fewer than 200 local and national taxes; the proposal is to reduce them to 30. Tax exemptions

growth accelerates. Russia will be increasingly attractive to international investors, and is reforming company and ownership laws to make investment more secure.

I asked Mr Shokhin about the problems of crime. He said that there were still too many particular exemptions from the rules, exemptions on which corruption fastens. So the Russians are moving towards universal legislation. The "grey economy" also reflects the fact that taxes have been very high. People will now pay lower taxes on a broader base.

Drugs and money-laundering are a serious problem, but Russia is now working more closely with Interpol and has reached international agreements about illegal financial flows.

At a certain stage in the process of market reform, countries move from the downward pull of the original liquidation to the upward pull of a virtuous cycle of increasing opportunity. Has Russia now reached that stage? The optimists, including many international investors, believe that 1997 is the turning point. Mr Shokhin considers that the social climate is still favourable to reform. He also takes confidence from the fact that President Yeltsin, who is a reformer, is back in full control of internal and external policy. Of course, the real recovery has only started. There is still much to be done, and reform is not always popular.

If Mr Shokhin is right, economic growth will accelerate in 1998 and thereafter: by the early years of the next century it may well reach the Asian-tiger level of 6 per cent or above. That is my estimate, not Mr Shokhin's. Growth is also likely to spread to former countries of the Soviet Union near Russia, particularly to Ukraine. The map of Europe will be turned to the east, with a new economy, numbering more than 200 million people, growing three or four times as fast as the EU itself, and maintaining that rate of growth for perhaps a generation.

In the early stages, Germany, as the central European power, will benefit from these investment opportunities. But almost from the beginning the re-emergence of Russia will change the European balance of power. Since unification, Germany has been the nearest thing to a European superpower. Russia will return in the next decade to her natural position as one of the major powers of Europe, perhaps the greatest.

In the years before 1914, the tsarist capitalist economy, with a 10 per cent growth rate, was seen as a growing threat by the Central European powers. Now, with Europe in economic decline relative to Asia and America, the new capitalist Russia adds its potential strength to the whole European economy. In political terms, Russia's sensitive borders are those with China and the Islamic countries, not those with Europe.

If the European Union could use its power to create a free-trade area of the whole European homeland, including Russia, that would constitute a single market of 800 million people. It is a more attractive objective than sealing the borders of Europe in order to protect the Renault car workers from competition.

The Russian tiger is ready to roar

William Rees-Mogg

are said to cost \$80 billion; evasion is thought to run at about 40 per cent of all taxes due. The aim is to establish and collect a tax revenue of between 32 and 35 per cent of GDP, about equivalent to the American proportion, lower than the British and far lower than the EU average.

Russia's domestic savings rate has reached Asian levels; if confidence can be established, which depends on tax reform, on a lower budget deficit, on falling inflation and on reducing crime, then Russia would have a very large domestically generated supply of capital. If the present economic

When Chancellors beware

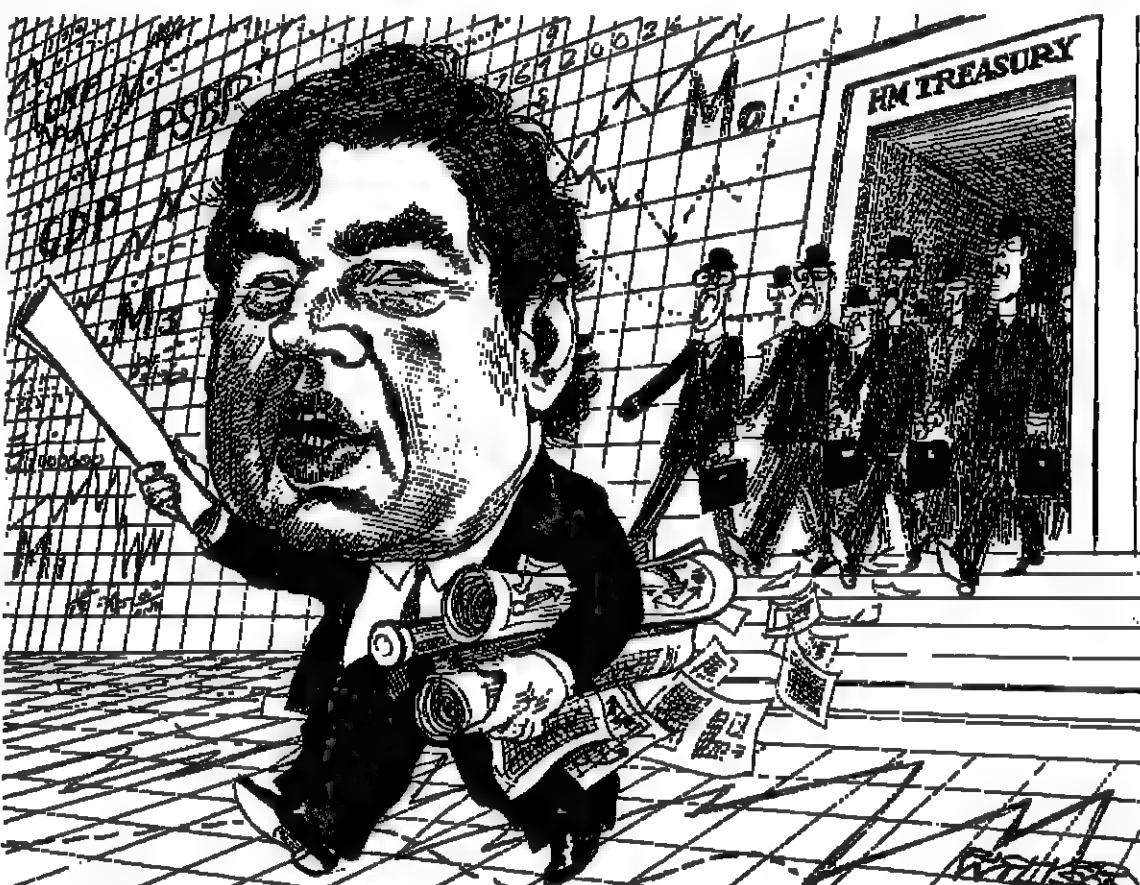
Gordon Brown has great power, but he can still be sacrificed, says Peter Riddell

Gordon Brown is the most powerful member of the Blair Cabinet, bar none. In the short term, he has more power even than Tony Blair. Prime Ministers have little direct power once they have appointed their ministers. They can exhort and make speeches. This can be very important, as Mr Blair is now showing in personifying the impression of a fresh start. But he cannot deliver change himself. Mr Brown can.

However, Mr Brown's power depends heavily on the confidence and support he enjoys from Mr Blair. They consult often; the rest of the Cabinet tends to be informed rather than involved. Indeed, Mr Brown now seems at ease with himself perhaps for the first time since he was forced to give up his own leadership ambitions three years ago. Until recently he seemed bruised and suspicious, unnecessarily so given his secure position.

Office has apparently removed these personal doubts, although some in the Treasury complain about his working methods and a sense of exclusion by a tighter inner group of ministers and special advisers. There are also some bruises in the City, and particularly the Bank of England, over the handling of the decision to reorganise financial regulation and banking supervision. Mr Brown is clearly hurt at suggestions that he acted arrogantly and failed to consult sufficiently. The Bank was left in no doubt before the election of his general intentions. City worries have been allayed by the appointment of four non-political economists to the monetary policy committee last week.

No one disputes Mr Brown's desire to be a radical, reforming Chancellor.



He has an opportunity denied to most of his Labour predecessors, such as Stafford Cripps, Roy Jenkins and Denis Healey, who were preoccupied with urgent financial crises. But partly thanks to Kenneth Clarke, Mr Brown has inherited a much sounder economic position and has the freedom to focus more on the long term, a phrase that he often repeats.

By the long term, he means creating a stable economic framework and encouraging investment in education and training, and in the infrastructure. The proposals affecting the Bank are intended to produce monetary stability. At the same time, Geoffrey Robinson, the industrialist-MP and now Paymaster General, has been given the role Harold Lever had in the 1970s of encouraging business involvement, as well as boosting the Private Finance Initiative.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

All this is being dressed up for international consumption in a grandly titled "Action Plan" to create jobs which Mr Brown is presenting to the Council of European Finance Ministers in Luxembourg today, to be carried forward to the British presidency of the European Council and the G8 industrial countries next year. It is less a real plan than a defence of the Blair-Brown approach to encouraging employability and flexible markets, and is both intended to make Britain appear constructive in Europe and to build bridges on unemployment with the new French Government.

Mr Brown has also set up task forces under leading businessmen to look at the interaction between the tax

and benefits system and how to move the unemployed from welfare to work. His proposals to offer 250,000 young unemployed either a job or training will be a centrepiece of the Budget on July 2 (along with the windfall levy on the utilities to provide the money). Mr Brown is keen to involve private companies in offering such opportunities. A clue to the Budget background will come in ten days with a report by the National Audit Office on the assumptions underlying spending and borrowing estimates. Expect a revision upwards.

But as with all Chancellors, the key will be his handling of public spending. He is determined to avoid the fate of the last two Labour Governments, whose middle and later years were dominated by politically divisive efforts to undo the

expenditure excesses of their first couple of years. By contrast, Mr Brown has accepted existing spending ceilings for the next two years (bar the welfare package) and has begun a comprehensive review of spending priorities within, and between, departments to affect plans from spring 1999 onwards. Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary, has written to departments with suggestions for their own reviews. Despite claims by the Ministry of Defence that its strategic review is not Treasury-driven, it is not exempt. But there is some cynicism in Whitehall about what government should do, which are held every few years and seldom produce savings.

But Mr Brown has underlined his determination by not holding the usual spending round this year. The Treasury has already rebuffed half a dozen requests for extra spending. The Health Department, for example, has been told that it must find administrative savings before it will receive any money out of the reserve for next year, as usually happens. Public spending could be the first serious political test for the Government, when local authorities, trade unions and the many Labour MPs with public-sector links realise that Mr Brown means what he says about holding down spending.

Mr Brown has said his model as Chancellor is Lloyd George. A more relevant example would be Nigel Lawson, whose absorbing memoirs Mr Brown mentions in conversation. Lord Lawson of Blaby also had a broad agenda - on privatisation, deregulation and tax reform - and at his peak in the mid-1980s his influence covered most of Whitehall. But the Lawson era offers two lessons. First, you are doomed unless you keep tight control over fiscal and monetary policy. Secondly, you are doomed if you fall out with the Prime Minister. If things go wrong, the Chancellor is sacrificed, not the Prime Minister. Just as the fate of the Blair Government is heavily dependent on Mr Brown's success as Chancellor, so his own future is inextricably linked to that of Mr Blair.

Stone me

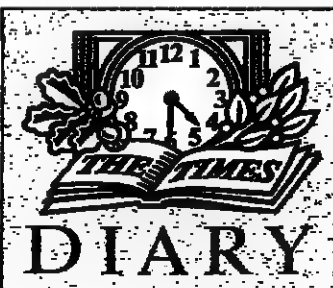
THE era of glasnost is over for England's Freemasons, who once again find themselves accused of paranoia, secrecy and downright weirdness. The accusations come from Richard Lomas and Christopher Knight, both Masons, who in the past two years have written two books, *The Second Messiah* and *The Hiram Key*, in which they have

argued that British Freemasonry had its origins in Scotland, not England. This has gone down as badly as a trouser-rolling joke with the United Grand Lodge of England, whose head is the Duke of Kent.

According to the authors, the English lodge feels its power and legitimacy threatened by their argument. Hence, despite recent attempts to rid itself of its secretive aura with the appointment of a press officer and the publication of accounts of its rituals, the lodge has resorted to intimidatory tactics.

The authors say that the United Grand Lodge sent out letters attacking them to the Provincial Grand Lodges in England and Wales. Lodges which had invited them to speak suddenly withdrew their invitations at the insistence of late-night callers high in the Masonic establishment. The authors' letters to lodges around the country were returned stamped "Return to Sender".

"If Freemasonry isn't about being honest and open it's nothing," says an angry Knight. The United Grand Lodge of England had nothing to say.



● Hong Kong's retiring Governor, Chris Patten, has been house-hunting in SE11. He is considering a house in Cleaver Square, a Georgian square within division bell range. He should have no trouble with the downpayment. Already one of the highest-paid on the Government payroll, his end-of-contract bonus amounts to 25 per cent of the total salary he has received over the past five years and, like his salary, is tax-free.

Boodles boogie

THERE are hot nights to be had at Boodles at the moment as the St James's club celebrates its centenary year. Last week a ball was held for 950 members and guests at Syon House, the Duke of Northumberland's London pad. In be-

tween dinner and a kedgeree breakfast came a Beating Retreat, a fireworks display which lit up the planes landing at Heathrow for half an hour, and dancing to the Michael Carney Orchestra from New York and Chance Disco, a hunt ball favourite.

Among those getting down were the Duke of Gloucester, the Earl of Clarendon, Viscount Dungarvan and Lord Braybrooke. This week the celebrations continue with the club's patron, the Duke of Edinburgh, popping in for a gull's egg, sweet sherry and dinner.

Bets off

A SHARP lesson for Norman Godman, Labour MP for Greenock and Port Glasgow. In DTI questions in the Commons on Thursday, he asked the minister, the small yet powerful Ian McCartney, when he would be paid for a bet he had made with McCartney's sister Irene. Godman had bet that her brother would get a ministerial post in the new Government. Irene had modestly said he wouldn't.

Irene's got no intention of paying up," said Mr McCartney from his constituency home in Wigan yesterday. A broad Glaswegian, and ardent Wigan rugby league fan, he

added: "Anyway, that Godman's a Hull rugby league supporter. On that basis alone, ma sister shouldna pay him."

In the pink

Friends of Peter Lilley are concerned that a certain foppishness is creeping into his wardrobe. Yesterday the Tory leadership challenger appeared on David Frost's breakfast show looking like a liquorice allsort in a pink and black striped tie with a matching polka-dotted handkerchief in his top pocket. His wife Gail is known to prefer her



Lilley: looking dandy

husband in blue shirts on television. A look to Lilley's watch proves more reassuring. The man who would lead the Tories still wears a calculator-timepiece.

● Dennis Skinner, the unrepentant Labour MP for Bolsover, has found a new way to annoy his new Labour bosses. Whenever one of them rises to the Dispatch Box and announces yet another review, Skinner starts to sing beneath his breath one of Fagin's songs from the musical *Oliver*: "I'm reviewing the situation, can a fella be a villain all his life...?"

Boomerang

THIRTY years as a scholar of Aboriginal art did little to prepare James Cowan, 55, for literary success. Yet the Australian, author of 20 scholarly volumes, has hit paydirt with a book even he thought was unpublishable. Cowan, who has been in England hawking his book, wrote *A Map-maker's Dream* to amuse himself. A philosophical meditation presented as the work of a 16th-century Venetian monk and cartographer who travels the world in his mind is hardly the most commercial idea. Unsurprisingly, all the publishers he approached rejected it, so



Lucky scholar: Cowan

Cowan packed his bush ranger's hat and headed off into the Outback to an Aboriginal artists' commune in Balgo Hills, deep in Western Australia. Then his fax machine started to whirr. Shanbala, a small publisher in Boston, was publishing the book. Suddenly it started to sell. "It was very strange being deep in the Outback and being told that Brazil had bought it," says Cowan. It is now published in 13 languages and with his new wealth Cowan has bid the billabong goodbye and bought a house in Umbria.

P.H.S



DUBLIN GREEN

Assertive nationalism is not in Ireland's interests

Bertie Ahern may be Ireland's next Prime Minister but the real winner in the Republic's election has been Gerry Adams. Sinn Féin's dramatic victory in the border constituency of Cavan-Monaghan gives the party its first member of the Dail since the 1980s; and Fianna Fáil's success across Ireland gives republicans the Government they wanted.

Mr Ahern is no one's plaything. But the positions he has adopted on Northern Ireland, so far, are much more congenial to republican activists than to the democratic Unionist majority. The composition of the new Dail will do nothing to inhibit, indeed will probably encourage, the adoption of a more assertively nationalist tone in Dublin. That would, however, only impede progress towards a durable settlement in the North. If Mr Ahern is to bring an honourable peace nearer he must show he is interested in agreement between traditions, not the more aggressive championing of his own.

Mr Ahern's mandate is a tentative one. The inconclusive nature of the election result makes it impossible to draw firm conclusions about the popular will. The poor showing of the Progressive Democrats, Mr Ahern's more strident junior partner in his centre-right coalition, is balanced by the drubbing meted out to Labour, the second party in John Bruton's defeated centre-left Government. Both of those rebukes to the more ideological of the main parties is overshadowed by the number of votes, more than one in ten, which went to independents or minor parties. The results speak of a restless nation, and they could lead to a fractious parliament. Several of the independents on whose favours Mr Ahern will rely for a majority have strong republican sympathies. The arithmetic is so tight that Sinn Féin's presence in the Dail has a significance which is more than symbolic.

It is bitterly ironic that Sinn Féin should be in a position to benefit from the establishment of a minority Government in

Dublin. It was John Major's weak parliamentary position, according to Irish nationalist opinion, which led to the collapse of the IRA ceasefire. Republican apologists argue that Mr Major stalled Sinn Féin's entry to talks at the behest of the Unionists, on whose MPs he relied for survival. It is a travesty of the truth. Republicans ruled themselves out of early entry with their continued commitment to violence and refusal to lay down their arms for good. Now they may be in a position to demand a seat at the table at a time of their choosing by reinstating a cynical ceasefire, arms holstered rather than handed over.

Mr Ahern has insisted that Sinn Féin will not be admitted to talks unless it abandons, rather than merely suspends, the armed struggle. He will, however, be under enormous pressure to accept any cessation of violence as a direct ticket to talks. There would be cause for legitimate doubts about the IRA's sincerity should it call a second ceasefire. They are unlikely to be entertained by Albert Reynolds, whom Mr Ahern has made his special envoy on Northern Ireland. The former Taoiseach played a shrewd hand to secure the first ceasefire but, so anxious is he to secure another, he takes a sanguine view about the good intentions of Sinn Féin which events on the ground do not seem to justify. Only last week a massive IRA bomb was discovered in Belfast and the skill with which republicans canvass cannot hide their continuing commitment to terror.

Allowing Sinn Féin to enter talks while the IRA maintains its operational capacity would itself be an incendiary act. The horrific murder of an RUC officer by a loyalist mob last week attests to the brittle desperation within elements of the Unionist community. These would react darkly to any evidence of further concessions to Sinn Féin. As Taoiseach, Mr Ahern must tread carefully. If there is to be peace in Northern Ireland, it is Ulster's Unionists to whom Dublin must now show reassurance.

SAFETY FIRST

No case for resuming the ivory trade in Harare this week

The ban on international trade in ivory has been controversial ever since it was introduced in 1989, when the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) listed the African elephant as a species threatened with extinction. Critics argued variously that a blanket ban would be unworkable; that black market prices would soar, increasing incentives for poachers; and finally that profits from ivory actually assisted sound conservation policy, by giving rural villagers economic incentives to help to protect elephant herds.

These arguments, most vigorously advanced by a group of southern African states with large elephant populations, failed to convince at the time, for good reason. A regime of "sustainable" ivory sales under international controls had been in force for 16 years. In that period, the African elephant population dwindled from two million to around 600,000. They were being slaughtered for ivory at the rate of 70,000 a year. Most African governments, including South Africa, were implicated in illegal trade.

Those who said a total ban could not work have been proved wrong. While the system is not watertight, it has been a success. Poaching has sharply declined and, in the absence of a legal market, demand has been suppressed. The African elephant population has stabilised overall, and is growing in some southern African countries. But it is this very success that has emboldened Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, three African states which never liked the ban — and which have continued to stockpile ivory — to press for a partial resumption of the trade.

At the CITES conference which opens today in Harare, they will seek the downgrading of the African elephant from the CITES Appendix 1, reserved for species at risk of extinction, to Appendix 2, under

which trade is theoretically permissible. They concede that the elephant is still at risk elsewhere in Africa, but contend that so exemplary are their protective regimes that they now have unsustainably large herds. They want to resume ivory exports, under strict controls and only to Japan, which they say has adequate safeguards. The profit would go to conservation and rural development. South Africa supports them, hoping that similar arguments will allow it to resume regulated sales of white rhino horn.

CITES governments should refuse. Kenya's objection that poaching would take off at the first hint that the market is opening up is borne out by the recent slaughter of 280 elephants in Congo, organised by illicit dealers who had heard that the ban was being lifted. In addition, the safeguards in the applicant countries are wholly inadequate. CITES inspectors report massive abuses of Zimbabwe's "personal use" ivory export permits, to include consignments of up to 70 tusks, worth \$90,000 — not to mention nine tonnes of ivory removed without documents from a government store. Angolan ivory is smuggled through Namibia. And in Japan, a leading ivory dealer has told CITES that the registration system is "a legal sieve".

Conservation must, above all in poor countries, pay for itself. But even the economic argument for exporting ivory is unpersuasive. Quite apart from the value of living elephants to the tourist industry, ivory accounts for a mere fifth of the revenue to be earned from culling elephants or selling expensive hunting permits. Britain is prepared to compromise at Harare, accepting the CITES downgrading but postponing sales until safeguards improve. Ministers should think again. Ivory cannot yet be traded without risking all that has been gained.

WALTZING OVER MATILDA

The best side won, and it was the Poms for a change

Warm words were seen to pass yesterday from Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, as he shook the hands of England's cricketers after the first Test match at Edgbaston. "Well played, mate," he no doubt said, or "Good on yer, chuck," appropriate words that, surely, sounded so much sweeter to English ears for their being uttered in an Australian accent.

There are few pleasures more heady than the euphoria of victory in an Ashes Test match. The joy which swept England yesterday was real and uninhibited. Forgive us, Australia, if we preen ourselves and strut a bit today. Forgive us if we dawdle at work, talking with glee of Gough and Thorpe and Hussain and Croft and Caddick. Forgive us that extra pint, that beery gloat, that chant of "Eng-er-land". We mean no harm, no ill-will, no offence. It's just that we are... well, completely over the moon.

Our joy is the greater, too, for the quaint quality of the game just played: this Test was like the ding-dong battles of old, when fortunes swung from session to session, and games were shaped by individual acts of bravery and panache. Our men wore clean, pressed whites, and proper caps, and smiles of good rapport. They played with spontaneity, a far cry from their ochre humour on the recent Zimbabwe tour.

It was a significant Test match for us, Australia. Do not underestimate the boost we get from beating you at cricket. We delight in beating you, and hope we will do so again and again this season. Shane Warne being clobbered by our twinkle-footed batsmen was a most delicious vision; and we roared our approval on the first day when Caddick & Co put the joy on the barbie.

Yet chivalrous we are too, Australia, and Mark Taylor's century warmed as many Pommie cockles as Antipodean ones. His innings should be fitted as one of the great personal fightbacks. To a man, we toasted him here, as he recovered faith and form, style and substance. Our most cherished stereotype — that of the gritty ne'er-say-die Australian — came true to life as Taylor scored his precious runs.

England won winsomely, of course, and that is the way we like things to be. And after years of being drubbed at everything, we seem to be on a winning streak in other games as well, against other people. Our footballers came, saw, and conquered in France; our rugby players are not doing too badly at all in South Africa. But the most cherished win of all, dear Australia, was yesterday, at Edgbaston. Is there a greater pleasure known to an Englishman than waltzing over Matilda?

Overseas budget 'on a shoestring'

From Mr David Howell

Sir, I was very pleased to see Douglas Hurd's support for a proper and comprehensive international budget for this country (letter, May 31). This was an objective for which the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee argued throughout the last Parliament — and the one before.

In particular, we contended that the British Council and the BBC World Service, far from being tail-end activities which could be run on a shoestring, had become the cutting edge in the promotion of Britain's influence and interests round the world, especially in Asia and Latin America.

British Council offices nowadays (and I have visited dozens) are besieged with people wanting to learn English, acquire British technical qualifications and study British teaching material (a major export). Yet many are seriously underfunded, some have had to be closed and others are run by remote control from neighbouring countries. Shoestring British Council operations and shoestring British embassies are the hallmark throughout the emergent world — where tomorrow's biggest markets lie.

Could not the new ministers involved bring together their mission statements and fundamental reviews? They might find the contrast between, say, £15 billion earmarked for the Eurofighter programme and the cheeseparing expenditure cuts planned for the British Council, the BBC World Service and our overseas posts generally well worth pondering.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID HOWELL
(Chairman, Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, 1987-97).
Chalk Croft Farm, Penton Mewsey, Andover, Hampshire.

From Mr Hugh Hanning

Sir, Mr Douglas Hurd's advocacy of a unified overseas budget might at least stop the Foreign Office from sabotaging the BBC World Service. But what is needed far more is a unified overseas policy.

In recent times the FCO and MoD have been repeatedly in collision, to the danger of the State. The Falklands War might have been avoided if the Ministry of Defence had not insisted on withdrawing our last naval vessel there, ignoring FCO protests. The Gulf War was precipitated by the insistence of the MoD on taking the brake off arms sales to Iraq two weeks before the invasion, again over the heads of the FCO.

The Foreign Office lost again shortly afterwards, when a meeting of the G7 at Lancaster House in July 1991 agreed to press on with the strategy of world order and, in the very same week, the MoD brought out a major White Paper, *Options for Change*, barely acknowledging this strategy.

The MoD thinks it is responsible for defence policy. It is not. It is an executive department. The policy department is the FCO.

The formulation of all foreign policy should be done, as it clearly is not being done, by the Foreign Office under the Prime Minister.

Yours etc,
HUGH HANNING,
18 Montpelier Row, SE3,
June 2.

Solicitors' conduct

From the General Secretary of the British Legal Association

Sir, One wonders what would satisfy Mrs Elizabeth Gaskell Syme's craving for more condign punishment for errant solicitors (letter, May 28). Clearly, she inhabits a different world if she thinks that members of the judiciary and Queen's Counsel have a soft spot for members of my profession; let alone allow themselves to be influenced by it.

Her true objection may well be that they apply the same law to solicitors as to anyone else; which would appear to conflict with what she really desires.

Yours truly,
GEOFFREY R. THOMAS,
General Secretary,
British Legal Association
(Incorporating the Solicitors Association),
2 Princess Way, Swansea.

A stitch in time

From Mrs Pamela M. E. Baker

Sir, The Reverend John F. White (letter, May 24) repeats the common perception of the failings of the British handymen. As of last week, I do not share his jaundiced view.

Last Saturday I was standing by, but not in contact with, my sewing machine when it suddenly started to sew of its own volition and emit alarming quantities of smoke from the foot pedal. I phoned my nearest repair shop, many miles away in Hillhead, Glasgow. I told the proprietor the make of the machine and the problem. He then told me clearly and succinctly how to effect the repair and added: "If you really want a new part I can send you one, but you shouldn't need it." I didn't.

Are Scottish repair men a superior breed?

Yours faithfully,
PAM BAKER,
Loran Lodge,
Glen Loran, Oban, Argyll,
June 6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9GN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Unpopular truths' and need for reassurance in Ulster

From Mr Alistair B. Cooke

Sir, It is by proclaiming unpopular truths about Ulster, as Simon Jenkins does ("In Place of Stormont", June 4), that a solution will eventually be found.

In practice, British politicians will not see the wisdom of leaving matters in the hands of power-sharing local councils until they have exhausted other alternatives. The last Labour Government, which had Roy Mason as an outstanding Northern Ireland Secretary, eventually came to see that absurdly ambitious initiatives should be avoided. In this he was constantly encouraged by the then Conservative and Unionist spokesmen on Northern Ireland, Airey Neave and John Biggerston, to whom I acted as adviser.

History needs to repeat itself. When this Government finally sees the light, it could once again indulge its enthusiasm for referendums by inviting the people of Northern Ireland to endorse such a constructive local government approach. Indeed, since their enthusiasm for referendums seems to know no bounds, they could include a second question on the constitutional status of Northern Ireland.

Under the Border Poll Act 1972, such votes can take place every ten years. It is time that legislation was used again.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR B. COOKE
(Chairman of the Trustees),
Friends of the Union,
PO Box 1261, London SW3 4JF,
June 5.

From Mr Robert McCartney, QC,
MP for Down North (United Kingdom Unionist)

Sir, Sir David Goodall (letter, June 2), far from easing Unionist fears about their future within the UK, exacerbates them.

The difference between political unification and the "unified civic and economic space on the island of Ireland" for which Sir David contends is not readily understood by the politically sophisticated, let alone the mass of ordinary pro-Union people. More over the vision he offers is one which the nations of Europe are clearly unwilling to accept as a means of obtaining political union through economic function and the political consequences.

In effect Sir David confirms what the Unionists already believe, that Downing Street declaration was of no interest in the Union, while the framework document provides institutions for effecting Irish unity over time and for rendering the right of the majority to withhold their consent to any transfer of sovereignty an empty husk.

It is an illusion to believe that the pro-Union people of Ulster are aberrant Irish. They are British and wish to remain so. A continuing failure to appreciate this is a recipe for disaster. Recent events should make new Labour realise that it has inherited a "smoking bomb" policy.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT L. MCCARTNEY,
House of Commons,
June 2.

From the Director of Charter 88

Sir, One very practical way for Labour to "reassure" both communities in Northern Ireland would be to start widespread consultation (perhaps through the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights) on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. This is supported — at least in principle — by all Northern Irish political parties and is one of the few areas of potential consent across both communities.

In addition, the British and Irish Governments are committed, through the framework document, to the introduction of legislation to protect rights, as well as the adoption of a covenant, or Charter of Rights.

Human-rights thinking, with its emphasis on the appreciation of the rights and dignity of each individual, might offer us the beginning of a new political settlement in Northern Ireland, where rights and responsibilities are addressed together.

Obviously discussion on the content of a Bill of Rights would be lengthy. It would also, at times, be difficult. But it could involve people from both communities who would be asked to contribute to identifying those guarantees necessary to secure peace and a political settlement. Such a discussion should not be delayed any longer.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PUGH-PHATT,
Director, Charter 88,
Exmouth House,
3-11 Pine Street, EC1,
June 2.

Housing density as key social issue

From the Chief Executive of the House Builders Federation

Sir, Mr Howard Rafael (letter, June 3) must indeed have lived abroad for many years if he thinks that the density of new housing development such as that proposed for Micheldever Station, Hampshire, is four to the acre. Sixteen is more like it for edge of town and 25 for urban development, at least.

Meeting the aspirations of all segments of the housing market will be achieved not by increasing but by decreasing those densities so as to produce pleasant environments in sustainable locations in which people will still want to live at the end of the next century.

My federation has just published a response (report, Homes, May 28) to the previous administration's Green Paper on household growth, which proposes ways of achieving this. A key proposal is to reduce traffic, for example, by taking new homes and schools to the sites of existing retail parks, which themselves generate much traffic.

What is not an option is to avoid building homes to meet expected household growth or to build them at densities which repeat the mistakes of the 1960s and would create the slums of the early 21st century.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. HUMBER,
Chief Executive,
The House Builders Federation,
82 New Cavendish Street, W1,
June 3.

From the Director of the Civic Trust

Sir, Although new settlements and village housing will undoubtedly play a part in providing for the projected 4.4 million growth in households over the next 20 years, towns and cities could and should take the lion's share, and become livelier, more vibrant and more enjoyable to the barge.

Incentives will be needed to persuade more landowners and investors to provide good-quality housing for all social groups on difficult urban sites rather than take the easy greenfield option.

These might include a greenfield development levy and/or tax credits for inner-urban developments, which can be set against rural developments; phasing out mortgage interest tax

relief and redirecting the money to housing and regeneration; tax relief for inner-city developments (as in Dublin), and unified business-rate reductions or "holidays" for inner-area schemes.

As one of the most urbanised nations in the world we have an overriding interest in making our towns and cities work better.

It will need a concerted effort, money and imagination. But the prize — lively, flourishing towns and cities — is surely worth every penny.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GWILLIAM,
Director, Civic Trust,
17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1,
June 6.

From Mrs Penny Tucker

Sir, The Director of the Town and Country Planning Association says (report, May 28) that we ought to be building more new towns because we "cheat on our children if we don't build enough homes for them to live in". The fact is, however, that the explosion in housebuilding over the past two decades has done hardly anything to relieve genuine housing need: it has generally allowed people who are adequately housed to move to something "nicer".

Given that this exodus from the towns and into the South East costs us dear in social, environmental and economic terms, as a society we are entitled to decide whether we want to encourage it, especially as the trend is indirectly subsidised by the taxpayer.

It is the increasing numbers of the very old, absent parents, students or single young persons who are predicted to require additional housing in future. These groups are likely to be predominantly poor, and if they can afford anything at all, they will need cheap, flexible accommodation with good access to social services support, public transport and other facilities.

We should now be addressing the twin questions of how one provides such housing, mainly in existing towns, and most important, who is going to pay for it.

Yours faithfully,
PENNY TUCKER,
7 Cedar Terrace,
Thackham's Lane,
Hartley Wintney, Hampshire,
May 29.

Cerebral palsy

From Dr A. P. Moore

Sir, I write on behalf of the UK Botulinum Toxin and Cerebral Palsy Working Group to point out that, while botulinum toxin can indeed help children with cerebral palsy (report, May 25), it is still an experimental drug. Moreover, it is not licensed for this condition anywhere in the world.

Properly controlled trials in the UK and abroad appear to show short-term benefit and safety in carefully selected children. Parents should understand that, as yet, there is no longer-term controlled evidence that toxin is better than traditional therapies. We believe it will be, but cannot yet be sure.

Aside from the medical issues, this drug is not necessarily a cheap option. Costs can be much higher than the quoted £100 for a single treatment, rising to £1,000 or more per year for the drug alone. Before there is widespread use of the toxin, parents and purchasers of healthcare want properly controlled evidence of efficacy, long-term benefit and value for money compared to other treatments.

Yours faithfully,
A. P. MOORE,
Walton Centre for
Neurology and Neurosurgery,
Rice Lane, Liverpool L9 1AE.

Pole position

From Mr Ashley Sims

Sir, I read with particular interest Mrs Anne-Marie Obolensky's letter (May 31); also letters, May 29) about turning a map upside down when travelling south.

Based on my father's design, I have produced the *Upside Down Map* for the UK, which shows the road system in the traditional way and then the reverse, to help drivers travelling from north to south.

My father came up with the idea 25 years ago when trying to navigate his way back from Scotland.

He failed to interest the major cartographical companies, which did not see the need; so we have patented the idea. Big orders have come in from major national retailers all over the country, from south to north.

Yours faithfully,
A. SIMS
(Director,
Upside Down Map Company),
Suite 5, Derwent Court,
Macklin Street, Derby,
June 6.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Tory leadership

From Mr David Blair and others

Sir, We endorse William Hague's vision of a rebuilt Conservative Party appealing to every part of the United Kingdom, to people from every type of background.

In particular, we welcome his plans to double the number of Conservative Party members aged between 25 and 40. In our experience the views and aspirations of this group were shaped by the Thatcher era and their support will be won by the leader best able to carry the values of freedom and enterprise into the next century.

The next leader must be able to command the respect of each of the various strands of Conservative thought. He must also have the strength of purpose and vigour to lead the party in a clear and distinct direction. We firmly believe that William Hague can renew the party's membership, philosophy and policies to bring it victory at the next general election. We urge Conservative Members of Parliament to support him.

Yours etc,
DAVID BLAIR
(Chairman, Oxford University Conservative Association, 1983),
TIMOTHY GREEN
(Chairman, National Association of Conservative Graduates, 1996-97),
ANDREW HULL
(Chairman, York University Conservative Association, 1992),
ROBERT PALMER
(President, Oxford Union Society, Trinity term, 1988),
39 Halliford Street, N1,
June 8.

Covering up

From Mr Roderick MacLean

Sir, Why are bowlers de rigueur for the Apprentice Boys and retired senior officers going to their clubs or attending parades, and 1950s-style battered tribes or even flat hats for those horsey folk in authority at race meetings, when ordinary men and women have generally abandoned head coverings of any sort?

The demand for cocked hats, topers and tricornes having withered, no wonder our Edinburgh hatter, in business since the time of George III, quietly disappeared about 18 months ago.

A quondam district officer, I owned my last trilby forty years ago; on formal occasions I had to doff it at the appropriate moment.

In old age I now find safety in a simple black beret, which keeps the remaining locks in place and the head warm. It has an added advantage in that it is unnecessary to doff it to any senior ladies met on the street. Full marks to the Bretons and the Basques for devising such handy headgear.

Yours sincerely,
RODERICK MACLEAN,
4/8 Belhaven Place,
Morningside, Edinburgh.

Vanity publishing

From Professor G. C. Allen

Sir, My introduction to the book as fashion accessory (leading article, May 30) came long ago, in August 1934, when I had bought for reading between Liverpool and New York the newly-published *Cladius* of Robert Graves. It had a soft blue dust jacket.

As the voyage began the book was borrowed by an attractive girl from Texas who carried it everywhere for the next week. When she finally returned it, I asked what she thought of the book. "Oh," she replied sweetly, "it made the most perfect match for my woolly."

Yours vainly,
GEORGE ALLEN,
4 East Street, Lewes, East Sussex,
May 30.

OBITUARIES

JAMES THIN

James Thin, bookseller, died on June 1 aged 73. He was born in Edinburgh on November 26, 1923.

ONE expects a good bookseller to be a trifle eccentric. One also recognises that, to survive, he must be a capable businessman. Jimmy Thin was both. What most of his customers will remember best was his passion for books, the trouble he took to seek out what they wanted, and the friendships that grew from his often lengthy and detailed correspondence. What they were probably less aware of was the enormous expansion of James Thin Ltd during his time as managing director.

When Thin joined the family firm in 1949, it consisted of one admittedly sprawling bookshop on Edinburgh's South Bridge, opposite the university. By the time he stood down in 1990, it had grown to a chain of 34 shops, stretching from Inverness to Portsmouth, with a turnover of £34 million. That it has held its own in the face of fierce competition from larger national rivals is testimony in part at least to the resilience and knowledge of a man who loved and understood the trade thoroughly.

His great passion was antiquarian books, and even after his retirement he remained a familiar figure on South Bridge, where he continued to look after that side of the business. He liked nothing better than attending book sales, where he was a keen and discerning bidder. So great was his enthusiasm that on one occasion, in the thick of a snowstorm, with the roads blocked, he donned skis in order to reach a remote sale that he was anxious not to miss. Perhaps not surprisingly, he was the only customer to turn up.

He was an inveterate collector not just of books but of ephemera from clothes to golf balls. He kept, and wore, his Loretto school blazer from the 1930s well into the 1990s, its pockets stuffed with tickets, bills and old concert programmes. His gift to his nephew James, when he joined the family firm, was a very long scarf that had been knitted for him by a relative during the Second World War with a bonnet sewn onto the end of it. He thought it would be a most useful garment for a young bookseller on the way up.

A veteran climber, in the Alps and the Himalayas, as



well as the Scottish hills, he loved telling the story of how he once spotted a scrap of paper flowing down a mountain stream in northern India. On retrieving it, he was delighted to find that it was a James Thin bookmark; naturally, he hung onto it. He had climbed all of the Munros — the Scottish hills over 3,000ft — bar one. He disapproved of the modern craze for "Munro-bagging", so he deliberately avoided climbing the last one, opting instead for something lower but, in his view, more challenging.

James Thin was born and brought up in Edinburgh, the great grandson of the James Thin who founded the family firm in 1848. Educated at Loretto School, where his great skill was in languages, he joined the Army in 1942, and served with the Gurkhas in India, learning to speak Urdu fluently. On his return, he took a degree in languages and literature at Edinburgh University, going on to learn

the bookselling business from the bottom up, at Bowes & Bowes in Cambridge, and later in Zurich.

His command of German allowed him to make three English translations of German fairy stories, which were later issued by Penguin. He joined James Thin in 1949 at the age of 26, and became managing director in 1973. His partnership with his cousin Ainslie was a successful combination of very different skills. Ainslie was the hard-headed administrator; Jimmy was the dedicated book seller, who built up a relationship with thousands of book-buyers all over the world. He began at a time when a good bookseller knew all his customers personally, and Jimmy continued the tradition. Many of them became friends, and he would often go to stay with them. South Africa was a favourite destination, not least because it allowed him to climb in the Drakensberg mountains.

He and his wife Marjorie, to whom he was married for 40 years, knew the Highlands intimately. They had a soft spot for the Western Isles, and owned a cottage on Barra, where they spent as much time as they could. Apart from his love of mountaineering, Jimmy was a member of the Monks of St Giles, an Edinburgh literary society, a great raconteur, and a man of restless energy. He was a scholar who disliked badly written or badly published books, but relished good writing.

He had the attractive quality of taking an interest in everyone he met, especially young people. He was immensely good company. His funeral last week was packed with friends, who listened to the kind of entertainment that Jimmy would have relished: ballads from Barra, Scottish accordion-playing, and a host of reminiscences.

He is survived by his wife and four sons.

VICE-ADMIRAL MALCOLM RUTHERFORD

Vice-Admiral Malcolm Rutherford CBE, Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Systems), 1994-96, died of a brain tumour on June 6 aged 56. He was born on March 21, 1941.

POSSESSED of remarkable energy and enthusiasm, Malcolm Rutherford combined a highly successful naval career with the promotion of and participation in a host of sporting and athletic activities. The son of a former Chief Constable of Surrey, he won a naval scholarship to Gordonstoun, going on from there to Dartmouth in 1958. He subsequently obtained a degree in electrical engineering from London University in 1964. Specialising as a submariner, he first served in the diesel-electric submarine *Thermopylae* before achieving at Greenwich the nuclear reactor engineering diploma, which qualified him for service in nuclear submarines.

Between 1968 and 1978 he oversaw the building of the nuclear submarines *Conqueror* and *Scapine*, and served in both of them at sea, finding time also to qualify as an Italian interpreter. After promotion to commander, he was appointed weapons engineer officer of the guided missile destroyer *Glanorgan*.

His first tour in the equipment procurement field, from 1986 to 1988, involved managing the development of the tactical weapon system for the very advanced Upholder class, the first conventional diesel-electric submarines to be built for the Royal Navy since the mid-1960s. That the four boats completed in this class have now been put up for sale instead of being commissioned is, some say, an unsatisfactory aspect of the "peace dividend".

Rutherford was next appointed Captain of HMS *Collingwood*, the Navy's weapon engineering school at Gosport and its largest shore establish-

ment. During his time there, he ran in the London and New York Marathons in 1989 at the age of 48.

During the Gulf War of 1991, Rutherford was at the Ministry of Defence as director of personnel on the central tri-service staff. His duties required him to travel to Saudi Arabia; his exceptional talents with people enabled him to win the confidence of all three Services and to deal with the many unusual personnel conditions that arose. He was appointed CBE in 1991 for this work.

Promoted to rear-admiral in 1992, Rutherford was the first engineer and the first non-seaman specialist to hold the post of Naval Secretary, advising the Admiralty Board on all officer promotions and their career structures. As a vice-admiral, his final tour was as Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Systems). In dealing with the difficult choices inherent in defence equipment procurement at a time of intense budgetary pressure, he endeared himself to his Army and Air Force colleagues by his outgoing character and clear thinking about overall defence priorities. In 1994 he also became the doyen of all naval engineers, the Chief Naval Engineer Officer.

Retiring in 1996, he joined GEC-Marconi as a director of its defence systems division, though his time there was cut short by the discovery of his illness. That shock was all the greater because throughout his career Rutherford had made almost a fetish of fitness. As well as being a long-distance runner, he was an accomplished mountaineer, being elected to the Alpine Club in 1972.

Founded as long ago as 1857, the Alpine Club — by contrast with the laxer requirements of other mountaineering clubs in Europe — insists that all its members should have notched up 20 "respectable" alpine peaks or similar mountains.



Rutherford was the first to achieve the traverse of the Cuillins in Skye in winter-time. On one occasion in the Alps, a friend was standing on a balcony balustrade in an alpine hut to take a photograph when he touched an electric cable. Shocked, he fell over the edge and slid down the icy slope — without an axe. Rutherford unhesitatingly grabbed his axe and went over the edge to rescue him, but to no avail.

Rutherford was president of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Mountaineering

Club for 11 years, and a member of the higher management of the Joint Services Everest Expeditions of 1988 and 1992. He was also on the committee of the Alpine Club and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1966. He took particular pleasure from his recent warm welcome as a member of the Garrick Club, a rare environment for naval officers.

He is survived by his wife Fleur, whom he married in 1969, and by their son and daughter.

EDDIE JONES

Eddie Jones, jazz double bassist, died on May 31 aged 68. He was born on March 1, 1929.

FOR the nine years from 1953 to 1962, Eddie Jones was a member of the most famous rhythm section in jazz, in Count Basie's New Testament band. Together with the impeccable discipline of his brass and reed sections, Basie's hallmark was the Kansas City swing of the bass, drums and guitar that offset his minimal piano style.

Just as the bassist Walter Page had anchored the 1930s rhythm team in Basie's original Old Testament line-up, Jones's broad tone and faultless intonation provided the foundations for the 1950s band that transformed Basie's fortunes from near-bankruptcy to an annual turnover of \$2 million.

Jones cut his first record with Basie on August 13, 1953: an arrangement of *Plymouth Rock* by Neal Hefti, one of the writers brought in to modernise Basie's sound. The stolid swing of the prewar band was no longer popular with record-buyers, and Hefti aimed at a lighter sound, which was achieved by Jones's supple four-to-the-bar basslines and the dynamic drumming of Gus Johnson and then Sonny Payne. Together with Basie's original guitarist, Freddie Green, Payne and Jones redefined the art of the swing rhythm section. "It was a musical heart transplant that worked," wrote Hefti, describing their immense success.

Edward Jones had grown up close to Bill Basie's own home at Red Bank, New Jersey, although Basie recalled that "it wasn't until he'd been in the band a week that I realised I knew his family". Jones was educated at Howard University, where he was



a lineman on the football team, studied music and formed some of his lifelong friendships, including those with tenor saxophonists Frank Wess and Benny Golson.

He worked in and around Washington and toured with Sarah Vaughan and Lester Young before Wess introduced him to Basie. Ironically, the man who had been Basie's bassist for most of the preceding six months, Gene Ramsey, left to join Young, and Jones came in after Milt Hinton had covered for a few weeks.

In his years with Basie, Jones recorded prolifically, not only as part of Basie's own demanding work-schedule, but also on freelance dates with members of Basie's extended "family" — Frank Wess, Frank Foster, Buck Clayton and Joe Newman. Through Golson he came to record in the company

of modernists, such as Art Farmer, Wynton Kelly and Colson himself, and in 1957 he had one of his most unusual sessions with the harpist Dorothy Ashby. There were several features for Jones in Basie's repertoire, including *The Big Walk*, and the eponymous *Jones*, which he played to great acclaim during the band's Manchester concert in April 1962.

Life with Basie's band was not all about music, for the band also had its own softball team. Jones "was a big fellow, who weighed about 250 pounds, so we made him the catcher," wrote saxophonist Marshal Royal. In his memoir of Jones, Royal also gave the clue to his next career move: "He was very intelligent, read a book a day, and always kept up his school training."

So in June 1962, at Peck's

San Francisco, after years on the road, and dissatisfied with the wages Basie paid, Jones left the band and, it seemed, the world of music, to join IBM. He was adept at both computers and management, rising through the company ranks. In recent years, he had worked on installing large-scale computer systems for an insurance company in Hartford, Connecticut.

Fortunately, the pull of music was too strong for Jones to abandon it altogether, and he appeared at Basie reunions in the 1970s, notably at Carnegie Hall in 1976. Later he toured for George Wein, and in 1989 and 1990 he appeared on Frank Wess's albums *Dear Mr Basie* and *Entre Nous*, reminding the musical public of his claims to be one of the most outstanding of postwar jazz bassists.

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THE CONQUEROR OF THE ZEPPELIN.

AWARD OF THE V.C.

His Majesty the King has sent the following telegram to Flight Sub-Lieutenant Warneford: "I most heartily congratulate you upon your splendid achievement of yesterday, in which you single-handedly destroyed an enemy Zeppelin. I have much pleasure in conferring upon you the Victoria Cross for this gallant act."

GEORGE R.I.

There will be general satisfaction that Flight Sub-Lieutenant Warneford's magnificent exploit has been rewarded so promptly with the V.C. Mr. Warneford is the second V.C. to be won by an airman, the other being that conferred on Second Lieutenant Rhodes Moorhouse, who died of wounds received after dropping bombs on the railway line near Courtrai.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS, June 7. I have received an account of the destruction this morning of Zeppelins. In the first case the attack was made single-handed by one of our naval airmen, who manoeuvred his

ON THIS DAY

June 9, 1915

Flight Sub-Lieutenant Warneford was flying a Morane aircraft and climbed 6,000ft to drop six bombs. For his gallantry, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

There will be general satisfaction that Flight Sub-Lieutenant Warneford's magnificent exploit has been rewarded so promptly with the V.C. Mr. Warneford is the second V.C. to be won by an airman, the other being that conferred on Second Lieutenant Rhodes Moorhouse, who died of wounds received after dropping bombs on the railway line near Courtrai.

DUTCH ACCOUNT OF THE GHENT EXPLOIT

Amsterdam, June 8.

The Tj'd correspondent gives the following account of the destruction of the Zeppelin yesterday, at dawn, a Zeppelin appeared near Ghent, pursued by two Allied airmen. The German guns posted on the parade-ground and at other points in the town opened a terrible fire on the aeroplanes, which were trying to cut off the Zeppelin's return. The ship was flying over St. Amandsberg and attempting to escape the airmen by descending. The Zeppelin had already had a skirmish with its pursuers, as it was listing to the left. Shots were exchanged with the pursuers, of whom one was daring enough to approach close to the dirigible in an attempt to fly over it. After a sudden bold swoop this airman was seen to drop some explosives on the Zeppelin, which was at once enveloped in flames. The balloon covering was fiercely burning, and after some minor reports and one big explosion, the dirigible dropped on the convent school of St Amandsberg.

TO THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

NET GAINS IN PARIS
Rob Hughes watches a new breed of champions at the French Open
PAGE 31

NEW BALL GAME
All smiles for England
PAGE 26

IN PURSUIT OF PEGASUS
Derby dreams and disappointments
PAGES 34,35

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JUNE 1997



Victory in sight: Alec Stewart, who made 40 in an unbeaten second-wicket stand of 90 with Michael Atherton, shapes to hit the winning run off Shane Warne. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Fiery England reduce Australia to ashes

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE WAIT has been long and the jokes sometimes cruel but English cricket may at last be about to reclaim its lost property. Credibility, prestige, even the holy grail of the Ashes are all within their sights after victory, by nine wickets and a day to spare, in a first Test match that had virtually everything. There was a time, yesterday, when it seemed the game was being turned on its head and the

stunning domination of the first two days would bring England nothing but broken dreams. It would have seemed unjust ... and horribly familiar. This, however, is not the mentally brittle England side of recent memory. Patient and probing, positive and resolute, they gained their dues shortly before 7pm and provoked a celebration of immoderate extravagance from what was close to a fourth consecutive full house at Edgbaston. Not even in the wondrous sum-

mer of 1981 did crowds turn up in such numbers at the start of a series and perhaps, since then, there has been no comparable incentive. But yesterday the Birmingham public roared its approval of a team capable of more than a perfunctory handshake with glory. This team wants to know the feeling intimately. England are now unbeaten in six Tests and have won their last three but the significance of this victory is its timing. There have been some memorable successes under Mich-

ael Atherton — in Barbados and Adelaide, at Lord's, Old Trafford and twice at the Oval — but, for the first time, England have taken charge of a major series at source. The terms are theirs to dictate. There was much to admire about their cricket over the four days and calmness was not the least of their virtues. After amassing a first-innings lead of 360, with almost three days still to play, any tendency towards complacency was ignored. Australia came back hard but England were ready for them.

parrying the counter-attack and awaiting their moment. It did not come easily. Mark Taylor, for whom this might so easily have been a farewell to Test cricket, made certain of that. His century was a monument to the character of the Australia captain but whereas in recent Ashes series the characters have all been Australian, now there were plenty on the home team, too. Darren Cough and Robert Croft, who shared the first six wickets, have quickly become the pillars of

the England attack and the epitome of the new spirit of the side. Wholehearted, hostile and still developing in ability, their exuberance is infectious. On earlier days there had been another English partnership to celebrate — that of Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe. Both have been prickly young men; either might have fallen short through flawed temperament. Now, they have been embraced and encouraged by the best England management team I have known.

David Lloyd, as coach, and David Graveney, as chairman of selectors, will say that the players deserve the credit for this upturn in fortunes. Their care, communication and innovative skills have made a huge contribution to a feeling that English cricket has not experienced for too long. The Ashes really may be coming home. Leading article, page 21
England's glory, page 27
John Woodcock, page 27
County reports, pages 28, 29

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Sussex left to count the cost of scoring system

CRICKET

Yorkshire's bowlers cruelly used by Young

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

HEADINGLEY (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Yorkshire by 44 runs (D/L method)

A MASTERFUL hundred from Shaun Young, the Tasmanian all-rounder, was not only his first for Gloucestershire in any competition. It also represented his great escape from single figures after managing a meagre 15 runs in four previous Sunday innings.

The left-hander made 146 not out, with nine fours and nine sixes, from 105 balls, to surpass by 12 runs Gloucestershire's previous highest individual Sunday score by Mark Alleyne, the present captain, against Leicestershire at Bristol five years ago.

Any resemblance between Yorkshire, hitherto second in the table, and a title-pursuing team was purely coincidental. Their bowlers, notably Gavin Hamilton, offered such a muted challenge that Young was deprived of two potential records only by a downpour that curtailed the innings.

With 32 balls still available, he was 81 runs short of beating Graham Gooch's competition best of 176 while the existing highest against Yorkshire, 153 not out by Barry Richards — for Hampshire at Hull in 1970 — was even more vividly in his sights.

Strokeplay transcended statistics with Young peppering the roof of the Yorkshire offices. His second-wicket partnership of 160 in 24 overs with Robert Cunliffe put the fielders to flight. On the rare occasions the ball passed the bat, it was almost invariably signalled as a wide.

Yorkshire dropped two

catches off the unfortunate Richard Stemp, one costly and another which might have been. Richard Kettleborough, lurking for the misdeed sweep, put down Cunliffe, who proceeded to double his score and make a Sunday best.

Peter Hartley also dropped a straightforward chance on the square-leg boundary offered by Monte Lynch. Five runs later, Lynch ventured a similar stroke. Hartley held the ball this time and Stemp showed justifiable ecstasy.

Young, 27 next Friday, presided over the entire innings, casting aside his previous Sunday scores of eight, two, three and two since joining the county as the overseas replacement for Courtney Walsh.

The feature of Young's innings was the ferocity of his driving. One flat, straight six off Craig White climbed barely a few feet above head height.

If Yorkshire were not traumatised by Young's blistering onslaught, they were bewildered by the bowling of Jonathan Lewis as they set off in pursuit of an adjusted target of 250 from 30 overs. He had Martyn Moxon caught at third man and bowled David Byas with that devilish instrument — a straight ball.

Tim Hancock, covering a vast tract of ground at mid-wicket, lunged to catch Darren Lehmann and with Bradley Parker leg-before to Michael Smith. Yorkshire were 56 for four and sinking.

Even a seventh-wicket partnership of 77 in nine overs, featuring Hartley's ebullient 46 from 26 balls, alongside Richard Blakey, who later completed a half-century only postponed the inevitable.



Weekes hits out in an opening stand with Kallis worth 85 runs for Middlesex during their defeat yesterday

Johnson and Maddy ease confusion

By SIMON WILDE

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Middlesex by six wickets (D/L method)

FINE innings from Neil Johnson and Darren Maddy, who shared an exhilarating stand of 135 from 126 balls, gave Leicestershire an easy win with ten balls to spare in this Axa Life League match yesterday.

Johnson, batting throughout the innings for 80 and Maddy played elegantly for 82 from 64 balls, his fourth score of 80-plus in one day cricket this season. Their stand apart, though, the game offered meagre fare.

Not for the first time this season, there was embarrassment and confusion over the revised target arrived at under the Duckworth/Lewis system, after a brief interrup-

tion for rain in the tenth over of the Middlesex innings. This break restricted Middlesex to 37 overs, from which they scored 196 for four.

When Johnson and Wells began the Leicestershire reply, the scorers gave their task as scoring 199 from the same number of overs. Several minutes later, however, the deliberations of the scorers — with whom responsibility for such matters lies — led to this being altered to 200. Still not satisfied, they then consulted Duckworth and Lewis themselves and the target was changed, for a final time, to 198.

In the event, none of this had much bearing on the outcome of the match, but it did nothing for the credibility of a system that is probably the fairest yet devised for dealing with rain breaks in one-day games. But being a

fair rule and being perceived as such by players and public are two entirely different things. The fact is that some of the findings of Duckworth and Lewis appear not only incomprehensible but illogical.

The crowd was able to contemplate a more sublime partnership in Johnson and Maddy, who matched each other stroke for stroke against some ordinary bowling. Though Dutch bowled tidily, Fraser was easily the pick of the Middlesex attack and the wickets of Wells and Whitaker were no more than just reward for an excellent opening spell. Johnson and Maddy were going so well that Fraser was brought back early in a last, unsuccessful throw of the dice. Maddy drove past his outstretched hand for an imperious four.

The Middlesex innings

began with a stand of 85 in 21 overs between Weekes and Kallis that was perhaps too sedate in its progress, though Mills, in particular, bowled well. Why, in view of the fact that Mills was unfit for the championship match and left the field immediately after bowling his eight overs off the reel, Ramprakash allowed Leicestershire a substitute fieldsmen is anyone's guess.

Both openers were out in the same over from Dakin, Weekes to a ball that he lost sight of, and Gatling was soon leg-before to Mason.

Pooley then shared bright partnership with Ramprakash and Brown, worth 28 in five overs and 65 in six, to which smart running contributed. Pooley, who struck an unbeaten 52 from 39 balls, looks like he is starting to get back to his best.

Emburey thwarts charge for victory

By JAMES ALLEN

MILTON KEYNES (Nottinghamshire won toss): Northamptonshire (4pts) beat Nottinghamshire by seven runs (D/L method)

CAMPBELL PARK was not treated kindly by the weather as it took its place among the county outgrounds yesterday. It was a trying day for all concerned, featuring several interruptions and revisions, but, in the circumstances, the players produced a decent contest.

Chasing an adjusted target of 211 off 27 overs, Nottinghamshire always had a chance as long as Nathan Aspin was at the crease. However, the New Zealander's valiant effort was ended with five overs remaining when he was bowled by Emburey. This was sweet revenge for the bowler, having seen the first ball of the same over deposited into the car park. It was one of five sixes in Aspin's 75.

The introduction of Emburey proved to be crucial. He had already accounted for Gie and, with the required rate increasing, removed Evans three overs from the close. Twelve were wanted off the last and when Walton gave Emburey a fourth wicket, having a swing at the penultimate ball, Northamptonshire were home.

It was grand entertainment for a sizeable crowd that brought the pleasant surroundings to life. When the sun shone the place looked a picture; trees surrounding an amphitheatre that was carved out of a gentle slope towards the end of the 1960s.

As Northamptonshire lost overs to the rain, so their approach became less careful. Penberthy had gone before the first break, Aaron taking a good catch at the wicket standing up to the medium pace of Evans, but everyone else blazed away to considerable effect.

Walton inflicted heavy punishment after Curran fell to Bates, who held on to a fierce drive off his own bowling. Walton landed one six on the pavilion roof and another on the grass terraces down the ground. He was held at long on five short of a half-century. Bailey continued the onslaught, ensuring Northamptonshire's total exceeded 200.

Headley and McCague return in winning vein

By IVO TENNANT

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Warwickshire won toss): Kent (4pts) beat Warwickshire by 32 runs

AFTER knocking Warwickshire out of the Benson and Hedges Cup and beating them in the county championship, Kent inflicted a further defeat yesterday in the Axa Life League. They will want to play them in the NatWest Trophy following this. After the infamous bowl-out in a cup quarter-final at Edgbaston three years ago, an event which still rankles in these parts, such victories are all the more treasured.

There can be no ground in the county where coloured clothing looks quite so out of place as at Tunbridge Wells. Still, that did not deter a sizeable crowd, the biggest of the week here. Kent's total of 177 did not appear sufficient, Warwickshire, after 20 overs of their innings, were up with the asking rate and had eight wickets in hand, but once Kemp and Knight went out, the rest, other than Welch, went meekly.

Headley signalled his recovery from a back injury with eight impressive overs and McCague, too, looked sharp after his hip trouble. Smith went too early in Warwickshire's innings.

Brown was smartly run out by Fleming and Marsh held two excellent catches to dismiss Kemp and Knight before some entertaining hitting by Welch.

Off the last five overs, 37 were required, two wickets intact. Marsh, enterprisingly, then brought on Long, who with his off spin had Edmond held at deep mid-wicket off his first ball. Welch was bowled, swinging at Fleming, in the following over and Kent had strengthened their challenge.

The odd ball popped off a length on an intrinsically decent pitch, although that could not be blamed for Kent's seemingly inadequate total. Only

Ward, who by the standards he maintains in one-day cricket was relatively subdued, reached a half-century.

Twice Brown took two wickets in an over and his figures of four for 42 were his best in this competition. His wickets included that of Strang, who batted as forcefully as anybody in making 40 off 33 balls, including a six off Welch over long on. He had a useful spell of leg spin, too, taking the wickets of Ostler, Penney and Sheikh. Having also won their last three championship matches, Kent are understandably in good heart for their Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

AXA Life League

Derbyshire v Hampshire

CHESTERFIELD (Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire (4pts) beat Hampshire by four wickets (D/L method)

HAMPSHIRE
G W White c Adams b DeFreitas 22
J S Lamey c Adams b DeFreitas 22
R A Smith c Kriken b Aldred 11
M Keach c Kriken b Aldred 19
W S Kneale b DeFreitas 12
J P Stephenson not out 38
S D Udal c Roberts b Aldred 6
A D Mearns b DeFreitas 7
S J Renshaw not out 19
Extras (b 2, lb 5, w 12) 19
Total (7 wickets, 38 overs) 170
16 N A Jones and C A Connor did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-51, 3-75, 4-92, 5-98, 6-114, 7-123
BOWLING: Harris 5-1-45-1; DeFreitas 6-0-27-2; Aldred 7-0-43-3; Clarke 5-0-23-1; Roberts 4-0-28-0

Derbyshire

K J Barnett lbw b Udal 48
C J Adams c Mearns b DeFreitas 14
D J Renshaw 14
D M Jones c Udal b Keach 33
V P Clarke c Stephenson b Keach 6
A B Rollins not out 19
J B Woodall b Renshaw 20
R M Kriken run out 2
P A J DeFreitas not out 2
Extras (b 5, lb 6, w 2, nb 4) 19
Total (8 wickets, 32.1 overs) 182
G M Roberts, A J Harris and P Aldred did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-103, 3-105, 4-111, 5-109, 6-176
BOWLING: Stephenson 5-0-28-0; Renshaw 6-0-26-2; Connor 7-0-24-1; Mearns 2-0-16-0; Keach 5-0-22-2; Udal 7-0-31-1
Target Score: 181 from 33 overs.
Umpires: K E Palmer and G Sharp

Durham v Sussex

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Sussex won toss): Durham (4pts) beat Sussex by 62 runs (D/L method)

DURHAM
J E Morris b K Newell 29
M P Spaight c Mearns b Kriken 12
C J Bann c Kriken b Kriken 7
J P Speak not out 19
J J Lewis not out 6
P D Collingwood b Drakes 6
M J Foster b Drakes 4
M M Bette not out 15
Extras (b 7, lb 6, w 2) 15
Total (6 wickets, 40 overs) 216
J Belling, S J E Brown and A Walker did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-55, 3-80, 4-176, 5-205, 6-209
BOWLING: Drakes 8-0-44-2; K Newell 8-1-22-1; Kriken 8-0-53-1; Khan 8-0-54-1; Robinson 5-0-36-0

Sussex

R K Rao c Spaight b Collingwood 13
C W J Athey run out 1
N R Taylor c Speak b Brown 9
G Greenfield c Speak b Belling 9
M Newell not out 7
P P Moores not out 11
Extras (b 2, w 2, nb 2) 5
Total (4 wickets, 14 overs) 57

Kent v Warwickshire

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Warwickshire won toss): Kent (4pts) beat Warwickshire by 32 runs

KENT
M V Fleming c Penney b Brown 19
M J Walker c Brown b Smith 4
T R Ward c Edmond b Welch 58
A P Wells lbw b Brown 7
D P Fulton c Frost b Edmond 9
J S A Marsh c and b Welch 8
N J Long c Frost b Edmond 12
P A Strang c Frost b Brown 40
M J McCague b Brown 11
D W Harris 1-28-0; McCague 6-0-28-2; Fleming 7-1-46-2
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-30, 3-31, 4-61, 5-73, 6-105, 7-124, 8-173, 9-176
BOWLING: Brown 8-0-42-4; Smith 8-0-25-1; Edmond 8-0-31-2; Welch 8-0-38-2; Frost 7-1-46-2

Warwickshire

N V Knight c Marsh b McCague 36
M M K Smith c Strang b Thompson 11
R R Brown c and b Welch 21
D L Kemp c Marsh b Fleming 25
D P Ostler c Marsh b Strang 7
T L Penney c Ward b Strang 3
G Welch b Fleming 25
A F Giles c McCague 0
M A Shakin c Wells b Strang 19
D D Edmond c Fleming b Long 19
T T Frost not out 2
Extras (b 4, lb 0, w 1) 21
Total (8 wickets, 31 overs) 146
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-35, 3-70, 4-85, 5-87, 6-91, 7-98, 8-99, 9-142
BOWLING: Headley 8-0-24-0; Thompson 7-1-29-1; McCague 6-0-28-2; Fleming 7-1-46-2; Strang 8-0-31-2; Long 1-0-2-1
Umpires: R J Allen and B Ducklington

Middlesex v Leicestershire

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Middlesex by six wickets (D/L method)

MIDDLESEX
P N Wickett lbw b Dakin 45
J H Kallis c Johnson b Dakin 24
J M Ramprakash b Dakin 21
M W Gatling lbw b Mearns 9
R K Brown not out 22
Extras (b 2, lb 0, w 13) 22
Total (6 wickets, 37 overs) 196
K P Dutt, R L Johnson, J P Heward, A R C Fraser and I N Blanchett did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-63, 2-94, 3-103, 4-191
BOWLING: Parsons 8-0-34-0; Mills 8-0-20-0; Dakin 8-1-38-3; Mearns 8-0-43-1; Wells 3-0-31-0; Johnson 2-0-20-0

Leicestershire

N C Johnson not out 79
V J Wells c Brown b Fraser 7

TABLE

Team	P	W	L	T	NB	Pts	PPR
Essex (17)	6	5	1	0	0	20	12.80
Leicestershire (8)	6	5	1	0	0	20	10.52
Yorkshire (8)	6	4	2	0	0	16	9.11
Somerset (9)	7	3	3	1	0	14	3.68
Nottinghamshire (9)	7	3	3	1	0	14	2.13
Gloucestershire (11)	6	3	3	0	0	12	2.70
Warwickshire (4)	6	3	3	0	0	12	5.00
Derham (12)	6	3	3	0	0	12	3.44
Leam (12)	7	3	3	1	0	12	0.58
Gloucester (16)	6	3	3	0	0	12	4.50
Worcestershire (11)	6	3	3	0	0	12	8.08
Durham (16)	6	2	4	0	0	8	7.11
Middlesex (7)	6	2	4	0	0	8	13.04
Nottinghamshire (8)	6	1	5	0	0	4	3.58
Sussex (14)	6	1	5	0	0	4	12.58
Sussex (14)	6	1	5	0	0	4	19.51

(1988 positions in brackets)

J J Whitaker b Fraser 4
J J Coady c Pender b Dakin 52
G I Macmillan c Heward b Wells 62
A Habel not out 2
Extras (b 2, lb 13, w 4, nb 2) 24
Total (6 wickets, 35.2 overs) 189
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-30, 3-31, 4-61, 5-73, 6-105, 7-124, 8-173, 9-176
BOWLING: Brown 8-0-42-4; Smith 8-0-25-1; Edmond 8-0-31-2; Welch 8-0-38-2; Frost 7-1-46-2

Northamptonshire v Nottinghamshire

MILTON KEYNES (Northamptonshire won toss): Northamptonshire (4pts) beat Nottinghamshire by seven runs (D/L method)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
M P Downman b Pollett 28
J J Ainslie b Emburey 28
P P Johnson b Penberthy 32
G F Archer b Penberthy 4
A C Lee b Emburey 42
T W Noon not out 1
K P Evans b Emburey 17
G T Stans c Sales b Curran 3
G W Welton b Emburey 4
M P Brown lbw b Taylor 13
A J Orr not out 0
Extras (b 3, lb 8, w 7, nb 2) 20
Total (6 wickets, 27 overs) 204
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-112, 3-136, 4-165, 5-164, 6-178, 7-185, 8-192, 9-204
BOWLING: Taylor 6-0-38-1; Pollett 5-0-50-1; Penberthy 5-0-23-2; Curran 5-0-53-1; Emburey 5-0-27-2
Umpires: G I Burgess and J H Harris

Somerset v Lancashire

TAUNTON (Lancashire won toss): Somerset (4pts) beat Lancashire by 5 wickets (D/L method)

LANCASHIRE
M Wickett c Parsons 5
P C McKinnon lbw b Rose 1
M E Harvey c Turner b Mustaq 8
G D Lloyd c Turner b Rose 0
N H Farnborough c Turner b Shine 28
I D Austin c Hardin b Rose 29
T W K Heggie c Burns b Shine 23
Extras (b 4, lb 8, w 17, nb 2) 29
Total (6 wickets, 38.2 overs) 141
D J Sheard did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-13, 3-13, 4-16, 5-164, 6-178, 7-185, 8-192, 9-204
BOWLING: Rose 8-2-15-3; Parsons 8-2-24-1; Mustaq Ahmed 8-2-24-1; Shine 7-2-0-25-2; Kerr 5-0-30-1; Burns 2-0-13-0

Surrey v Essex

THE OVAL (Essex won toss): Essex (4pts) beat Surrey by six wickets (D/L method)

Surrey

J D Ratcliffe c Robinson b Cowan 69
J J Ward b Such 31
N Shand b Grayson 5
A J Hollidge c Kallis b Such 39
B C Hollidge lbw b Cowan 2
C C Lewis b Grayson 5
A J Ainslie run out 3
I D K Salisbury not out 3
M P Bicknell run out 4
Saqib Mustaq b Cowan 4
J E Benarman b Cowan 0
Extras (b 9, w 4, nb 2) 15
Total (34.3 overs) 178
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-79, 2-82, 3-139, 4-146, 5-164, 6-165, 7-168, 8-172, 9-176
BOWLING: Harris 4-0-18-0; Cowan 6-3-0-36-4; D R Law 4-0-29-0; Such 7-0-22-2; Grayson 7-0-25-2; Powell 6-0-36-0

Gloucestershire

D D J Robinson b Lewis 0
S G Law c Bicknell b Saqib Mustaq 24
G A Gooch c Kallis b A J Hollidge 28
R A Law not out 32
A P Grayson c Shand b B C Hollidge 16
D R Law not out 4
Extras (b 8, lb 5, w 15, nb 2) 30
Total (4 wickets, 33.5 overs) 165
D D J Robinson, R J Rolles, J C Powell, A P Cowan and P M Such did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-20, 3-46, 4-97
BOWLING: Bicknell 3-0-19-0; Lewis 5-0-27-1; Saqib Mustaq 7-0-32-1; A J Hollidge 6-1-28-1; B C Hollidge 7-0-34-1; Salisbury 5-0-23-0
Target Score: 184 from 35 overs.
Umpires: A A Jones and D R Shepherd

Yorkshire v Gloucestershire

HEADINGLEY (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Yorkshire by 44 runs (D/L method)

GLoucestershire
A J Wright b Greenwood 6
R J Cullis c Harcock b Lewis 1
S Young not out 146
M A Lynch c Hartley b Stemp 18
M W Ainslie not out 14
Extras (b 5, w 8) 12
Total (3 wickets, 34.4 overs) 252
T H Harcock, R C Russell, M C J Bell, A M Smith, R P Dams and J J Lewis did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-170, 3-203
BOWLING: Greenwood 6-0-52-2; Hartley 5-4-1-24-2; Harcock 8-0-75-0; White 5-0-32-0; Stemp 6-0-53-1

Yorkshire

D Dams b Lewis 29
M Moxon c Davis b Lewis 14
D S Leithorn c Harcock b Lewis 1
B Parter lbw b Smith 2
R A Blakey c Harcock b Bell 14
C White c and b Bell 4
P J Hartley c and b Ainslie 76
R A Kettleborough b Smith 18
G M Hamilton not out 9
C E W Sherwood not out 7
Extras (b 6, w 4) 10
Total (6 wickets, 30 overs) 208
R D Stamp did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-24, 3-32, 4-56, 5-82, 6-158, 7-173, 8-183
BOWLING: Smith 6-0-25-2; Lewis 8-0-39-3; Young 6-0-35-0; Bell 1-0-37-2; Ainslie 5-0-44-1; Davis 1-0-20-0
Target Score: 250 from 30 overs.
Umpires: J H Hampshire and T E Jesty

Dominant Rose finds new ways much to his benefit

By PAT GIBSON

TAUNTON (Lancashire won toss): Somerset (4pts) beat Lancashire by five wickets (D/L method)

SOMERSET beat the rain and the unfathomable Duckworth/Lewis method for setting what is supposed to be a fair target in an interrupted match to become the first side to beat Lancashire in the Axa Life League this season.

How Somerset came to need 150 off 38 overs when the Lancashire innings had been halted at 141 for eight in 38.2 overs and then, after a further stoppage, 105 off 22 overs, only the statisticians know but they got them all the same with an over to spare.

They had initially made heavy weather of it but Rob Turner brought the target down to size with a scorching 42 off 32 balls, including four fours and a six and Graham Rose, who still has his eye on a place in England's one-day side at the age of 33, fittingly, settled the issue.

He had chosen this as his benefit match and he was to dominate it from start to finish. First he took three for 15 in his eight overs to set the standard for the Somerset bowlers; then he struck 20 off 21 balls to win the game. The crowd rewarded him with a collection of £1,685 and receipts approaching £8,000.

Lancashire had batted like a side which had just been humiliated inside two days in the championship and then spent the next two days cooped up in a hotel just off the M5 with little to do but reflect on the error of their ways.

In the past, their championship form has not been reflected in their one-day performances but now their shortage of confidence was plain to see as they lost their first three wickets in six balls with the score anchored on 13.

Watkinson, presumably the pinch-hitter, was bowled by Parsons before he had landed a blow in anger and then Rose struck twice in three balls, claiming McKinnon leg-before and having Lloyd caught behind dabbling limply outside off stump.

The last thing Lancashire needed at that stage was to see Mustaq coming on to have young Harvey embarrassing stumped. He proceeded to bowl so teasingly that even Fairbrother, an expert at this kind of thing, was restricted to 29 off 66 balls. Hard as they tried, Austin and Hegg could not break the Somerset stranglehold either and when the rain came they must have known they did not have enough runs — whatever Messrs Duckworth and Lewis said.

Surrey find little to sing about as Essex win again

By JACK BAILEY

THE OVAL (Essex won toss): Essex (4pts) beat Surrey by six wickets (D/L method)

IT IS the almost constant noise through the public address system that rings in the ears when you leave the Oval on Sundays these days whether it is Johnny Gold's rallying cries or the tinny tunes denoting the players' choices as they walk to the wicket. It may catch on, along with the Duckworth/Lewis method of reassessing totals, but for some of us it will be a long haul.

In among it all, there was some pretty good cricket of the 40-over variety. Adam Holoake demonstrated his all-round skills. Graham Gooch played yet another final Sunday League match and made a useful contribution: Ronnie Irani and Danny Law, with an unbroken fifth-wicket partnership, saw Essex home with seven balls to spare to their fifth win from six matches this season. They had needed 21 from the last three overs and Law's contribution saw him pass 50 from 41 balls during an invaluable innings.

Although Surrey scored 176 from the 35 overs eventually allowed by a couple of showers, the Duckworth/Lewis method of calculation decreed that Essex needed

Touring team loses forward momentum after uncomfortable encounter with rampaging Bulls

Lions' supremacy shaken at foundations

Northern Transvaal 35
British Isles XV 30

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PRETORIA

DEFEAT, even if it is the first to be suffered by the British Isles against a South African provincial side for 29 years, is by no means disaster. Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach, confessed on Friday that he was happy that the international series with South Africa was still a fortnight away and the loss to Northern Transvaal here on Saturday confirmed how much work is still to be done.

Far better to lose an unbeaten tour record now and identify the weaker links in the Lions chain than to have them exposed in the first international in Cape Town on June 21. The opportunity to strengthen them remains, and McGeechan may well be forced to revise some of his views after the Blue Bulls scored their way to an entirely deserved victory, one that would have been more emphatic had the referee awarded at least two tries that appeared to have been earned.

Should the Lions be more simplistic in their approach to the game? Will the many positive qualities in Gregor Townsend's game be outweighed in the international arena by the negatives? Is Mike Catt a viable alternative to either Townsend or, at full back, Tim Stimpson? These are areas of concern that were debated long before the tour began, but defeat concentrates the mind wonderfully.

The silver lining around this particular cloud is that the Lions were made to play so poorly yet still came within five points of the victory. They will reflect that selection for this match, notably in the back row, was useful only in a negative sense and that England's tight five, which has bullied its way around Europe for nearly 10 years, is not as good as it sometimes believes itself to be.

The message was driven home by John Williams, the former South Africa lock who

coaches the Bulls. "The Lions must realise that if they want to play this type of game, they must start scrumming well and they must start driving," he said. "You must tire your opponent in the maul and give your scrum half good ball."

In other words, the house that McGeechan seeks to build must have firmer foundations now that the Lions are entering the most demanding phase of their tour. On Saturday the half backs — and, to a degree, the back row — operated off a platform that crumbled sideways for much of the afternoon. Their opponents, in contrast, scored two tries direct from set pieces, aided by poor defending, and were gifted a third that was to prove vital.

The most serious statistic for the Lions, as it has been throughout the tour, was the number of scrums they conceded, 21 to 11 on this occasion. The players feel that referees are inclined to award scrums to their opponents with greater celerity than they do to the Lions, who find themselves playing with possession that has already been slowed down at ruck or maul, in which case they must be far more clinical in those areas.

On Saturday they were not. They split ball in the loose, in tackles and under high kicks. They were naive in telegraphing their attacking plays and failed to adapt to Northern Transvaal's propensity to pack the short side and use Bouwer's elusive attacking skills from full back. The upshot was a series of question marks, in terms of the internationals, over Stimpson, Bentley and Tait (as a centre), while Quinell, Rowntree and Regan, the forwards, will have to work hard to recover lost ground.

In each of their four previous games the Lions enjoyed an early score. Here they were 11 points down before Guscott threaded a kick through the eye of the defence and chased through for the Lions' first try. Steyn had kicked two penalty goals and also scored a try when Bouwer made the extra man and Steyn, with ample space, left Stimpson clutching at air as he sprinted home.



Tait, the British Isles centre, evades a determined challenge by Schutte and breaks clear towards open ground at Loftus Versfeld

When Bouwer created the simplest of tries for Van Schaikwyk, Northern Transvaal held an 18-7 interval lead that they embellished within a minute of the restart. By wheeling the scrum, they created a vacant blind side into which Breytenbach pounced, linking with Esterhuizen, who flipped up the pass for Richter to finish a 40-metre move. Then the Lions began to demonstrate their mettle and Townsend, direct from a

lineout, made a wonderful break to send Guscott over for his second try. Townsend's gifted running makes it all the more frustrating when he fails to perform the nuts and bolts of rugby. His restart kicks were either too shallow or too deep and his propensity to seek the wide open spaces from deepest defence, rather than work down limited channels, in the end sealed the match. Stimpson's kicking had brought the resur-

ved Lions to 25-20 going into the final quarter before Townsend, trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, misdirected a pass under his own posts. Van Schaikwyk gobbled it up. With time running out Guscott looped to a big blind side and Tait — now on the wing after Bentley had been replaced by Gibbs — ran powerfully before delivering the scoring pass to Townsend. Even with Northern Trans-

vaal within range, the Lions could not dominate possession, nor did they deserve to snatch the match from the fire.

SCORERS: Northern Transvaal Blue Bulls: Tries: Van Schaikwyk (2), Steyn (2), Bentley (1), Tait (1). Conversions: Steyn (2), Bentley (1). Penalties: Guscott (4), Townsend (2), Esterhuizen (1). British Isles XV: Tait (1). Conversions: Stimpson (3). Penalties: Stimpson (3).

Australia forced to gamble on Horan

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIM HORAN will play stand-off half for Australia when they meet France in Sydney on June 21. The selection of Horan, who has won 47 caps and whose partnership at centre with Jason Little was a cornerstone of Australia's 1991 World Cup triumph, reveals the lack of depth that they have at No 10. Greg Smith, the Australia coach, admitted as much. "I think it's going to be a gamble whoever you play in that position at the moment," he said. "There are shortcomings all the way through."

The selectors have thus ignored David Knox, the veteran whose form during the Super 12 tournament made him one of the outstanding players in the competition. Pat Howard, who has played stand-off at international level, will partner Little in the centre.

John Eales remains captain of a team that otherwise is much as expected, although Ewen McKenzie has returned to favour at tight-head prop. Troy Coker, the former Harlequins forward, who played his first game for Australia a decade ago, has been named on the replacements' bench.

New Zealand have also selected an international side, for the game on Saturday against Fiji in Auckland. John

Hart, the coach, has picked two new caps, Tana Umaga and Taine Randell. In the latest round of the Pacific Rim championship, Canada enjoyed a narrow victory in Vancouver against Hong Kong, the surprise package of the competition. Gareth Rees, of Wasps, kicked a penalty goal in the 79th minute to ensure a 17-16 win.

A resurgent United States beat Japan 51-29 in San Francisco, with Brian Highower, the United States wing, scoring four tries. Japan were not helped by the dismissal, late in the game, of Hiroyuki Tanuma for stamping. Canada are well placed to retain the Pacific title, with two matches for each of the four teams to be played.

Gregory Kacala, the Polish-born flanker who was so influential in Brive's progress to the Heineken Cup last season, has signed a two-year contract with Cardiff. Kacala, 29, follows Tony Rees to the club and will prove a significant addition to Cardiff's forward strength.

AUSTRALIA (v France, June 21): M Barker; B Little, J Little, P Howard, R Tait, T Horan, G Morgan, R Henry, M Caputo, E McKenzie, B Robertson, R O'Brien, J Eales (captain), D Wilson, D Mann.

NEW ZEALAND (v Fiji, June 14): C Cullen; J Wilson, P Burke, L Skene, T Umaga, A Hetherington, J Marshall, O Brown, S Fitzpatrick (captain), C Dowd, M Jones, R Brooke, J Jones, J Knowled, T Randell.

England stumble within reach of history

Argentina..... 33
England..... 13

FROM MARK SOUSTER
IN BUENOS AIRES

ALTHOUGH England will rue their failure to create rugby history by securing their first series win abroad by a 2-0 margin, they should not be dispirited. Nor should there be recriminations — too much has been achieved on the tour of Argentina for that. Their performance needs to be put in context.

Lacking Mike Catt and Nigel Rodman, called up by the British Isles, and with Adedayo Adebayo and Jim Mallinder clearly half-fit, they were asking too much of England to climb — in the words of Jack Rowell, their coach — another Himalayan peak.

"We made too many mistakes, we turned over too much possession and our ball-retention was poor," Rowell said after their defeat at the Ferrocarril Oeste Stadium here on Saturday. "The loss of Catt in the week also created a big hole we weren't able to fill. Overall, though, the tour has been an outstanding success and I congratulated all the players, several of whom have made a statement for inclusion in the 1999 World Cup squad, for their contributions on and off the field."

To their credit, England did not make excuses for their heaviest defeat since the 40-15

setback against Australia in 1991, but there were mitigating circumstances, not least Argentina's ability to turn around their fortunes so impressively. Instead of the shapeless side of a week earlier, they dictated proceedings from the outset. They showed far greater control and precision, played with their heads rather than their hearts and, in Gonzalo Quesada, the stand-off half, possessed an astute tactician.

His controlled kicking from hand and his all-round play ensured that Argentina exerted a territorial stranglehold from which England were rarely able to extricate themselves. Argentina dominated the set-pieces and forced Kyran Bracken to spend most of the game acting as a ninth forward, which did not help Mark Mapletto's cause on his debut.

Mapletto cut a sorry figure. He kicked a penalty goal but missed another and two conversions, and generally looked ill at ease. The harder he tried — and he did try to make things happen — the worse it got, and when Mallinder was

replaced by King, Mapletto dropped to full back, where he looked more comfortable. King, who became the tenth new cap on the tour, fitted in well at stand-off in the last quarter and scored a try, made by Mapletto's vision.

Mistakes did little to help England's cause. Argentina's first try was a case in point. Having withstood an early onslaught, conceding only two penalties, England had begun to establish some rhythm. Then Mallinder fielded an aimless punt inside the England half and set out on the

counter-attack, but inexplicably passed to where he thought Adebayo was in support. The ball went to ground and Soler had a casual 40-metre stroll to the line. Although Mapletto kicked a goal, England turned around 13-3 down.

Argentina turned the screw in the third quarter. A penalty goal by Quesada was quickly followed by Grau's try, the impressive pop popping up in the line to power over from the 22. A late rally brought a try for Grewcock, but England were clearly second best.

For their part, Argentina, for whom Soler and Simone scored again, can look forward to their five-match tour of New Zealand, which begins today, with less trepidation than they might have done.

SCORERS: Argentina: Tries: Soler (2), Grau, Simone. Conversions: Quesada (2). Penalty goals: Quesada (3). England: Tries: King, Grewcock. Penalty goal: Mapletto.

ARGENTINA: E Jurelo (Rosario), T Bolari (Hondur), E Simone (Lugo Naval), J Arbizu (Belgrano, captain), P Soler (Lugo), G Quesada (Hondur), N Fernandez Miranda (Hondur), R Grau (Guaymas), G Promancillo (Quedens), M Regalado (Castres), R Martin (San Isidro), G Llanea (Bath), P Sprinckler (Guaymas), J Fernandez Lobbe (Lugo Naval), P J Carmona (Rosario), Beka Vica (Rosario), Regalado replaced by D Hansen (Jall, Rosario), G Miranda (Rosario), Soler replaced by G Arizade (Rosario), 68).

ENGLAND: J Mallinder (Sale), J M Stangertholme (Bath), P R de Gierville (Bath, captain), N J J Greenstock (Wasps), A. Adebayo (Bath), M G Mapletto (Gloucester), K P P Bracken (Saracens), K. King (Bath), R Coker (Leicester), D J Gifford (Leicester), M Corry (Bristol), M Haug (Bath), D J Grewcock (Coventry), B B Clarke (Richmond), A J Dignase (Saracens). Corry replaced by C M A Sheehan (Wasps, 54), Mallinder replaced by A D King (Wasps, 58), Adebayo replaced by A C T Gormusall (Wasps, 67).

Referee: J Kaplan (South Africa)



Llanes, the Argentina lock forward, towers over Haag at a lineout

Gibbs ban tarnishes disciplinary record

FROM DAVID HANDS

SCOTT GIBBS, the Swansea and Wales centre, was suspended for one match yesterday after being found guilty of punching Gault Esterhuizen only minutes after joining the game against Northern Transvaal as a replacement. He will be unavailable for selection for the game against Gauteng in Johannesburg on Wednesday and his prospects of playing in the first international on June 21 have declined further.

Gibbs, 26, became the first British Isles player to be cited for foul play and suspended. Since he suffered an ankle injury in his first tour match, against Border, he has yet to complete a full 80 minutes and there is little time left for him to recover ground. The management, meanwhile, has been left fuming that such an incident should have occurred at this particular time.

The Lions, justifiably, took a high moral tone last week when they lost Doddie Weir to the most blatant piece of foul play against Mpumalanga on Wednesday. They have demanded disciplinary action by the Mpumalanga union, whose committee meets today, but by doing so they have created a greater onus on their own players to avoid controversy.

Gibbs was adjudged to have followed through a heavy tackle on Esterhuizen by punching him. Gibbs told the South African Rugby Football Union disciplinary panel that he was attempting to dislodge the ball from Esterhuizen's grasp.

The panel regarded this as "fanciful" and commented, somewhat curiously, on Gibbs's experience in rugby league leading to a more aggressive approach. That may refer to the habit of league players tackling around the shoulders and trying to force a turnover of the ball, which is what Gibbs claimed he was trying to do.

The panel took into account the fact that only a glancing blow was landed, that the incident would probably have earned no more than a penalty had the referee seen it and Gibbs's own good record. "We had a fair bearing and we accept the decision," Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, said. "As far as we are concerned, this matter is now closed."

There will, however, be a lingering sense of injustice if Mpumalanga do not take punitive action against Marius Bosman, the lock whose kick ended Weir's tour. As matters stand, Bosman goes scot-free while Gibbs must take his punishment on the chin.

The Lions' own internal disciplinary committee, of Cotton, Ian McGeechan, Martin Johnson, and Rob Wainwright, will not sit on this particular issue though McGeechan, the coach, must be disappointed that any player should have provoked a citing. He will have noted, too, that Andre Watson, the referee, called the two captains together at one stage after individual players had queried decisions. Personal discipline remains a high priority for the Lions if they are to sustain the ambitious game that McGeechan requires.

□ The only Lions player to have been sent off for foul play in a match is John O'Shea, the Cardiff and Wales prop, who was dismissed for punching against Eastern Transvaal during the 1965 tour of South Africa, after the referee had issued a general warning.

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Brazilian's brilliant improvisation secures French Open triumph against former champion

New age of adventure unveiled by Kuerten

FROM ROB HUGHES IN PARIS

GUSTAVO KUERTEN, the new champion of Roland Garros, is a player who enriches sport and his victory in the French Open here will make the court of tennis far more exhilarating in the future. He brought to this hallowed red clay his inimitable beachwear, blue shoes for heaven's sake. Yet we watched him devour the champions of old, beating Thomas Muster, Yevgeni Kafelnikov and, yesterday, Sergi Bruguera in the final.

More than that, much more, he brings a sense of boyish imagination, a feeling that a player if he is gifted enough need not be a clone of one of the past masters, but can invent his own style. Given that he comes from Brazil, just imagine what will happen if that nation, with its ability at ball games, should become inspired by him as once it did by Pelé.

A day before "Guga" defeated Bruguera 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, he received a fax from Pelé, now the Minister for Sport in Brazil. He handled it with humility, just as yesterday he handled his opponent with almost brutal, complete all-court pace and power. Here was a 20-year-old, a man ranked No 66 in the world, someone who had never won a world-ranked tournament on any surface, taking out champion and virtually apologising to them for doing so.

When he stepped on to the podium yesterday and saw Bjorn Borg, six times a winner at Roland Garros, the Brazilian bowed deferentially. "I didn't expect this trophy," he later explained, "and there on the podium in front of me was one big idol in tennis. I think this was the destiny, the fate... and when I had this cup in the hands, I thought of my father, Aldo. When I lost him

[his father died while umpiring a children's match in southern Brazil] I was eight going to nine. He never saw me play. So this trophy and this tournament and all that I did here goes to him."

In a mercurial wind and the sky heavy with cloud, we saw from the very first that Kuerten could upset the odds. His service comes down from such a height; he is 6ft 3in, able to produce angles and acceleration that Bruguera, standing five feet beyond the baseline, could not return. Kuerten's first two service games were won to love. But, in Bruguera's service games, there were already examples of the clay-court specialist being wrong-footed, being misled by the strength of return, the always varying angles and low skimming volleys of the Brazilian.

In the fifth game, Kuerten broke the Spaniard. All the aggression, much of the effort and the courage to go for winners was coming from his side of the net. "I want to give all credit to Kuerten," Bruguera said. "He played an outstanding match. Maybe I waited for him to make mistakes, but he went for it."

In the second set, Bruguera, a player of considerable courage as his return from hip and ankle injuries has shown, used his wiles to try to halt the steamroller bearing down on him. But Kuerten, unlike in the semi-finals, where he lost concentration, was irrefragable. Twice more he served to love and on the Spaniard's service he must have seemed almost like an octopus, a player of such quick movement, such elastic reach, that the experienced Bruguera looked on the point of despair. Yes, he did immediately break back when 3-1 down. Yes, he did prolong the set, probing and searching and perhaps



Kuerten expresses his feelings during his win over Bruguera in the final yesterday

still waiting for inspiration to blow itself out. Bruguera, indeed, won a supreme point in the ninth game of that set when, with both men groaning audibly through the sheer effort, Bruguera three times returned what appeared to be winning forehands from Kuerten and then advanced to produce a breathtaking backhand winner of his own. It was rare respite and Kuerten, unmoved by the moment, took the set.

In the third, it appeared that a lucky break, a Kuerten

winner off the top of the net, had broken the Spaniard's resolve like the snapping of a racket string. At any rate, will-power did subside. Kuerten quickly ran through the set and Bruguera said: "You don't lose faith because of one stroke of luck, but I couldn't find a way to turn the match."

No turning point, one of the world's leading exponents on clay beaten in every aspect of the game. Kuerten is coming to Wimbledon via a tournament in Bologna. He said he is coming to learn and he insisted

that he is coming as a normal person, not as an accepted Brazilian idol, such as Ronaldo.

"To do that, I have to win for at least two more years," he said. And the spending-money? Kuerten received £400,000 yesterday. "I think I'll put it into my account," he mused. "I have all that I need right now, a good house and my mum's car that I use a little bit." He could not name or describe the vehicle so he improvised, as he does on the court.

Majoli comes of age in centenary celebration

FROM ROB HUGHES

FOR some, it takes a glass of wine to loosen the tongue, to liberate the personality. For Iva Majoli it took the intoxication of becoming the French Open champion in the centenary year of women's tennis at Roland Garros on Saturday to open up.

The 19-year-old Croatian had seemed to be struggling against the odds in a tournament made for Martina Hingis, the 16-year-old phenomenon. On the podium on Saturday, once Majoli had outplayed, outpowered and outsmarted Hingis 6-4, 6-2, it fell to Chris Evert, five times the champion here, to make the first apology. Evert, like many, had not given Majoli a chance. "There is no way Iva can beat Martina," she had said on NBC television. Now it was Evert's honour to present the Suzanne Lenglen trophy, and she did it graciously with a few quiet words that surely must have begun with: "Sorry, we underestimated you."

The afternoon had begun heavy with the scent of nostalgia and roses. A flower had been handed to each of the 9,000 women among the 16,000 capacity crowd, and a *boutonniere* to the former champions who were invited for the centenary celebration. Thereafter, competition, harsh and telling and somewhat brief in its lesson, took over.

Majoli struck the tempo of her game from the very first, seldom advancing from the baseline yet aggressive, powerful and accurate in her line and length. She persevered in the sultry conditions, and in the fifth game of the first set revealed her intention to break the myth of Hingis early on. Majoli moved 40-0 up on the Hingis service. Hingis, in her response, revealed the champion's will, or so it seemed. Matching strength with strength, mind with mind, she saved those three break points, endured four deuces and won the game.

However, it took something out of her, Majoli, increasingly dominant on her own service games, winning the next to 15 and the one after that to love, attacked with venomous, flat, repetitive baseline-to-baseline groundstrokes. The

supreme rally of the contest, coming once again when Hingis was serving against the tide, entailed 23 strokes and was won with a brilliant change of weight and direction by Hingis. Yet it was a forlorn gesture. She was broken and lost the first set 6-4, her attempts to leather the ball over the net, as she had so successfully against Monica Seles in the semi-final, only demonstrating the athleticism, the defiance, of the Croatian.

Majoli, on antibiotics for three days because of a heavy cold and requiring an injection after finishing exhausted in her own semi-final, simply felt that destiny was luring her on. The crux of the match seemed to be the Croatian asking how much her young opponent, this girl who has everything and had beaten every competitor in every

beaten. She then lost the crowd's remaining affection by slamming down her racket and incurring a code violation. She was broken again, to love, at 5-2 and Majoli, asked to sit out one more interruption while Hingis called for ice treatment because she felt cramped in her upper thighs, then served out without allowing the distractions to tamper with her concentration.

Majoli had earned 17 break points to nil, broken Hingis three times without response and won 73 per cent of her first-service points, compared with 48 per cent from Hingis.

Then the new champion opened up her personality. "I'm going to party," she said. "I like to party, I like to have fun, which perhaps is why when people expected me to win a grand slam at 16 or 17, I really didn't feel ready for that. I was just doing what normal people do — I think with me at 16, I was more like 13. Martina, at 16, is like a grown-up. I had lots of friends, I was always going out, nobody stopped me doing these things. Martina, I really have to admire, she takes this really big responsibility."

Hingis put on her Hollywood smile in the face of defeat and repeated the lines that her recent knee operation, and her gruelling doubles semi-final on Friday, had perhaps caught up with her. She admitted that her bathroom break had come when she felt hot and bothered: "I thought, now I can relax a little bit, take a little time off, try to come back," she said. The rules were not framed for this, nor for the intention to disrupt the rhythm and momentum of the opponent.

"Maybe I did think, did she really have to go to the bathroom?" Majoli said. "But, you know, we are friends, Martina and I. On the court, we all mean to win, and maybe you do things sometimes you don't mean to do." Would the new champion do such a thing? "Well, I don't know. I mean today I wasn't in that position. Maybe if I was, I don't know. You can't really think that you are friends or whatever, it's a final and we both want to fight as hard as we can to win."



Majoli: athletic

match in 1997, really wanted this crown.

The breaking point came in the fifth game of the second set. Hingis took a "bathroom break", with her mother also having left the court, and spent an inordinate five minutes away from the court, leaving Majoli to hold her concentration. The Croatian kept herself mobile, practicing services, waiting while the crowd whistled Hingis when she returned. Immediately, Hingis lost her service; she seemed bemused, bewildered,

Henman needs string of wins to secure Wimbledon seeding

JULIAN MUSCAT



Tennis Correspondent

AFTER their recent, barren experiences in the slippery dustbowl of Europe, the time has come for Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski to put down some roots. Certainly the terrain could not be more favourable as Britain's leading duo front a strong supporting cast at the Stella Arois grass court championships, which open today at Queen's Club, in west London.

Connoisseurs will be attracted by Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Goran Ivanisevic, whose presence adds lustre to what remains the most authentic pre-Wimbledon pointer. However, the vast majority among this week's 50,000 spectators will want nothing less than to celebrate a homecoming. If the Roland Garros galleries adopted the Mexican wave, those at Queen's want to wave their Union Jacks — metaphorically speaking, of course.

This is a poignant tournament for Henman, who carries the greater weight of expectation. He underwent arthroscopic surgery on a long-standing elbow injury 11 weeks ago and remains vulnerable through lack of match practice, having been knocked out early in Rome, St Polten and Paris. His world ranking has suffered accordingly and only a productive run at Queen's can advance his desire for a seeded berth at Wimbledon.

"I have been overtaken by quite a few people after the results from Paris," Britain's No 1 acknowledged. "From now on, all players have one eye on Wimbledon, the really important one. But this is not just a warm-up for me. I have had my problems so my European season really starts here, on grass. I will feel at home in more ways than one."

The draw at Queen's offers Henman — seeded four and accorded a first-round bye — an excellent opportunity to reacquaint himself with his favoured surface. His compatriot, Andrew Richardson, opens proceedings on centre court today against Sargis Sargsian, of Armenia; Henman squares up to the winner tomorrow.

If all goes well, he is projected to encounter one Australian, Jason Stoltenberg.

Spirlea heads field

IRINA SPIRLEA, from Romania, heads the entry for the DFS Classic women's grass court tournament at the Edgbaston Priory Club, which opens in Birmingham today. Spirlea, the world No 13, reached the quarter-finals in Paris last week before succumbing to Steffi Graf in three sets. She also reached the same stage of the Australian Open in January. Seeded second is Nathalie Tauziat, the beaten finalist

in the quarter-finals and another, Mark Philippoussis, in the penultimate round. Let us hope he will take his lead from England's cricketers.

Rusedski, seeded 16, has fared less well. He opens tomorrow with a demanding examination at the hands of Mark Woodforde, yet another Australian and a creditable fourth-round loser in Paris. Woodforde, who, in tandem with Todd Woodbridge, has no peer on the doubles court, must rebound from a rare doubles defeat on the Roland Garros clay two days ago.

Doubtless the outcome to the Edgbaston Test will fortify Woodforde more than Rusedski, the latter a naturalised Briton — if no less patriotic for all that.

On a broader note, it will be intriguing to discover whether the form-book betrayals so prevalent on Europe's clay courts extend to the domestic grass season. The Spaniards, who virtually colonised Roland Garros, are conspicuous by their absence.

The two surfaces bear as much similarity as vinegar and vintage wine, so perhaps the old order is about to reassert itself. Certainly

Sampras, the world No 1, surprised few with his early departures in Rome and Paris. Like Henman, with whom he opens an assault on the doubles title today, Sampras thrives on Britain's lawns. He is three times a previous winner here.

Chang, the world No 2, surfaces at Queen's for the first time in six years. His service, previously lacking in penetration, has increased in velocity, although the live outsiders in his half of the draw will be pleased to have avoided Sampras.

It has long been folly to make predictions on behalf of Ivanisevic, whose spectacular hitting strikes a chord with the British audience. And the

QUEEN'S SEEDS

1. P Sampras (US); 2. M Chang (US); 3. G Ivanisevic (CRO); 4. T Henman (GB); 5. M Rusedski (GB); 6. M Philippoussis (AUS); 7. J Courier (GB); 8. J Stoltenberg (AUS); 9. P Rafter (AUS); 10. J Serrano (FRA); 11. T Woodbridge (AUS); 12. C Polking (GB); 13. A O'Brien (US); 14. J Stoltenberg (AUS); 15. M Gollner (GER); 16. G Rusedski (GB).

cognoscenti are expecting big things of Patrick Rafter, the ninth seed, whose serve-and-volley approach sustained him to the semi-finals in Paris.

Ultimately, however, the burden falls squarely on Henman to put the nation in Wimbledon mood. Never mind that he has made giant strides towards the elite; never mind that his form since injury is lacking; never mind that, along with Rusedski, he is Britain's first seed in this tournament's 18-year history. All that is in the past. The British tennis season effectively starts with Henman's first appearance on home soil this year. It is time for him to put down those roots.

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Epsom team guilty of badly-judged race

When it first arrived on our screens Channel 4 Racing was like a breath of fresh air for those raised on a diet of Peter O'Sullivan and the ITV Seven. It was innovative, informative and, above all, fun — providing for perhaps the first time on television a real sense of what attending a race meeting is all about. On Saturday, however, Channel 4 Racing was tired, smug and ill-disciplined. Something has gone badly wrong.

There was strange sense of déjà vu as, for the second time in eight days, the build-up to the big event began with Brough Scott squinting into the camera. In the best equestrian tradition, Scott had picked himself out of the mess that was England against Poland on Channel 5, dusted

himself down and got straight back in the saddle. A nation held its breath. "Hello everyone," Scott said cheerily. "Once a year it comes down to this, a summer's day in Surrey." Phew, what a relief. Scott had rediscovered the English language. Later he would survive getting the Hills brothers thoroughly mixed up and even came up with the telling phrase that wrote the next day's headlines: "Benny the Dip steals the Derby ... we'll be back after the break."

But if Scott himself was not the problem, he was still part of the problem — part of a team that has become too big, part of a team that had completely forgotten that on this of all days there is a potential audience out there that knows next to nothing about racing. But then this is



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

also a team showing worrying signs of knowing next to nothing about broadcasting. The mission to explain has been replaced by a mission to entertain ... themselves.

As the camera passed, seemingly at random, from Scott to John Oaksey to Derek Thompson to John McCricker, one longed for the reliable voice of calm that is Des Lynam on Grand National day. Thompson is the nearest Channel 4 Racing has to a natural broadcaster — or rather he was.

Nowadays, he too has become an insider, as anxious to swap jargon and in-jokes as the rest of them. He also has an annoying habit of referring to himself as Tommo, wore a morning suit to present *The Morning Line* and proved a somewhat unreliable guide to form. He was so close to the action at the start I thought he might be led into a stall himself, but instead he cast an expert eye over Benny the Dip — or Benny the Drip as he was called all day. "He's not sweat-

ing up at all — is that a bad sign?"

Thompson should have stuck to his strength, which is the vox pop, man of the people stuff. Others too should have stuck to what they do best, but instead we had Oaksey mixing uncomfortably with the open-top bus crowd, John Francome confusing broadcasting that appears effortless with broadcasting that is effortless and McCricker doing far too much shouting.

Lesley Graham, who is a much better broadcaster than some of her colleagues, proved characteristically game to play the token female, donning smart suit and veiled hat to introduce a rather token 60 seconds of Epsom fashions and then changing into jodhpurs and hard hat for her mounted interview with the

winning jockey. The photo-finish, however, did for that. Willie Ryan was mono-syllabic before the result was called and after it was he ignored her — even though she had her microphone shoved under his nose. Later, the Epsom public address system would all but wreck the one really good idea of the day — ringing Landon Knight, the winning owner, at home in Ohio.

Somehow it seemed symptomatic of a team in need of a good shake-up, that the most polished broadcasting of the day came from John Gosden, the winning trainer, who managed to be witty, touching and gracious all at once and without stumbling at all. He put the majority of the Channel 4 Racing team to shame.

Derby coverage, pages 34, 35

POLO

Labegorce too strong in Queen's Cup win

By JOHN WATSON

LABEGORCE, who are put together by Hubert Perroux, the French player, yesterday defeated Joe Gotschalk's Les Lions 8-6 in the high-goal, six-chukka Queen's Cup tournament at Smiths Lawn, Windsor. This match also counted for the Gerard Leigh Cup.

The famous Mexican combination of Carlos Gracida and Roberto Gonzalez, who form the central strength of Labegorce, quickly made the force of their partnership apparent, and Labegorce were leading 5-3 by reading-in time.

Labegorce are well known for their faithful backing-up and accuracy. A notable goal was snatched home in the second chukka by Perroux, riding his speedy chestnut gelding, Rocky.

Ernesto Troiz, of Argentina, and Cody Forsyth, his New Zealand No. 2, were increasingly making their talent felt for Les Lions, while Nicky Evans, their back, marked Gracida with close tenacity. In the fifth chukka, Les Lions equalised at 6-6.

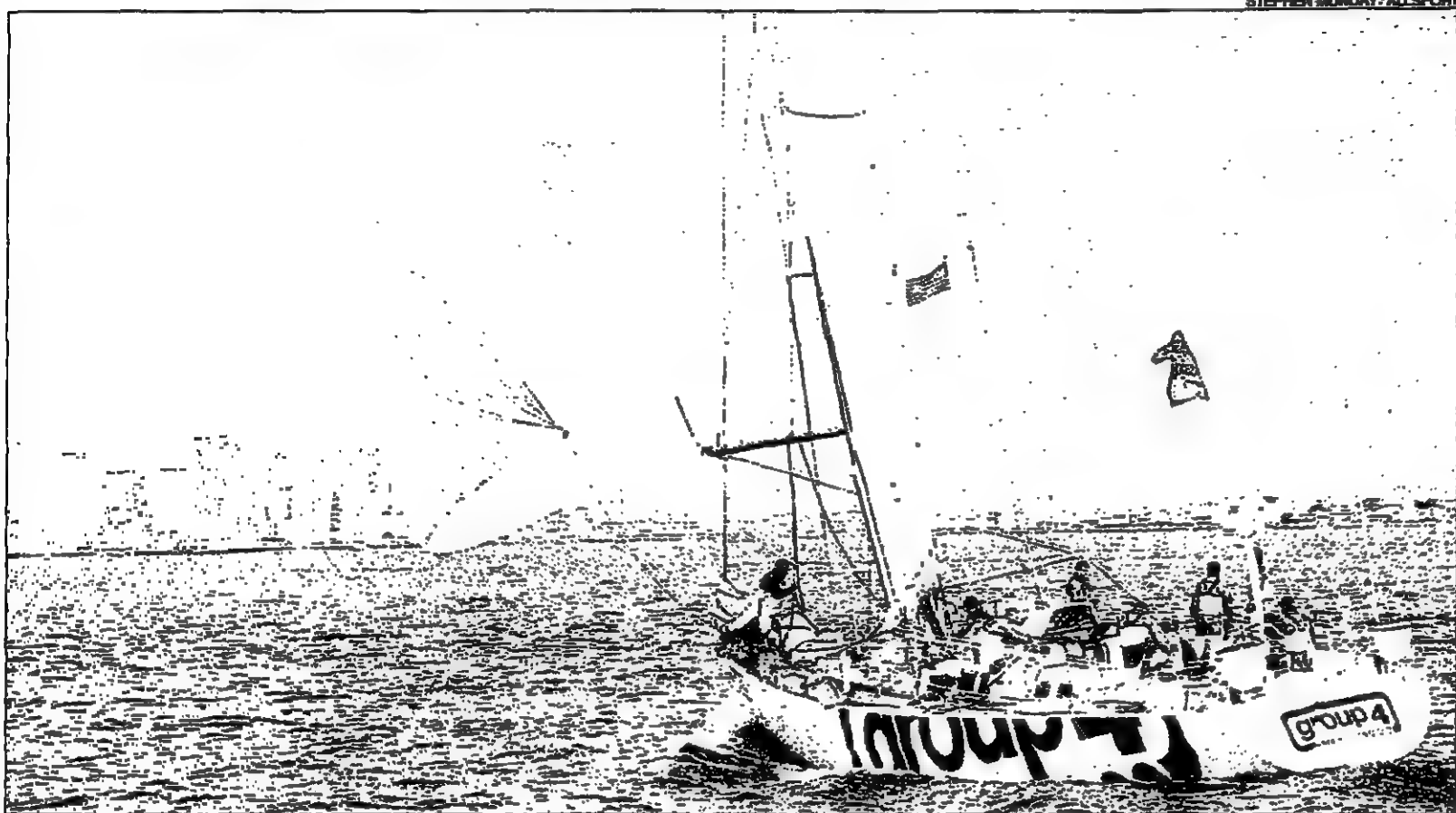
Unfortunately, Troiz, who plays off a ten handicap, was hitting very wildly and missing many goal shots.

In the sixth chukka, a cross by Gotschalk resulted in a 40-yard penalty conversion from the mallet of Gracida, who scored again to give Labegorce their convincing victory.

In the second Queen's Cup match, Dubai defeated Calumet 17-8.

LABEGORCE: 1, H Perroux (10), 2, R Gonzalez (7), 3, C Gracida (10); back, I Gotschalk (5). LES LIONS: 1, J Gotschalk (10), 2, C Forsyth (8), 3, E Troiz (10), back, N Evans (4). CALUMET: 1, H Kovalchuk (2), 2, J Hallowell (11), 3, H Barabou (11), back, H Hallowell (8). DUBAI: 1, A Alwayad (11), 2, J Alwayad (8), 3, M Alwayad (9), back, R Matthews (4).

SAILING: WINNING SKIPPER MARKS BOSTON ARRIVAL WITH ICED TEA PARTY



Golding and his Group 4 crew sail into Boston Harbour, comfortable winners of the penultimate leg of the BT Global Challenge

Golding scanning new horizons

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN
IN BOSTON

MIKE GOLDING berthed in Boston Harbour and dutifully followed the conventions of celebration. He soaked his crew with champagne spray, pondered to the photographers by thrusting the winners' trophy to the heavens, and then, in the time honoured tradition of ocean racing, retired to the nearest bar to seek alcoholic oblivion.

His subsequent hangover yesterday morning, a painful tribute to the strength of Long Island Iced Tea, was as inevitable as his victory in the fifth leg of the BT Global Challenge, a 7,000-mile journey from Cape Town. Golding's yacht, Group 4, has been beaten only once in the nine months it has taken to reduce Chay Blyth's round the world race for amateur sailors to a procession.

No one doubts overall victory will be confirmed in

Southampton next month, when the 14-boat fleet is due to complete its circumnavigation. But, for Golding, the scenes of exultation will be tinged by an awareness of the relevance of his achievement. He still has much to prove, not least to himself.

In a sense, he embodies the subtle change in Blyth's race, which was founded on the ethos of adventure. He has shaped his dominant amateur crew by distilling the lessons of professionalism, without easing the doubts of those who criticise the venture as little more than an exacting activity holiday.

"There is a need to move on, to move towards something with a more recognised professional status," he acknowledged. "But I'm not content to do something half-cooked. I'm not going to bash together a typical British project, with the minimum of funding. They always end in trouble."

Sailing is a small, intro-

pective world, and the patronage of Jorgen-Philip Sorensen, chairman of Group 4's global security empire, arouses envy. He funded Golding's unsuccessful Admiral's Cup campaign in 1995, which was seized upon by the former fireman's critics as evidence of his inability to break into the sport's elite.

"To learn how to win you've got to learn from defeat," Golding reasoned. "Sure, I'm aware that some people are happy to see me fail. They just see me as some guy who has fallen on his feet. It's part of

the game, and I won't change those attitudes until, in their eyes, I get out there and do it."

He is entering a crowded marketplace. Round the world sailing, rather like struggling to the summit of Everest, has become self-defeatingly fashionable. There are no fewer than seven round the world races on the calendar, and the casual observer finds difficulty in distinguishing between Blyth's Challenge series and its professional equivalent, the Whitbread.

Golding's most realistic option is a single-handed project, like next year's Around Alone race. The most romantic alternative is The Race, a French-inspired non-stop circumnavigation which, with its conspicuous lack of design rules, is being marketed as an event that matches the spirit of the millennium.

"That will be outrageous," Golding said, with an ill-disguised sense of relish. For all the horrors of the Southern

Ocean, it has a magnetic attraction for men blessed with a distinctive spirit. Calculated risks are seductive, even if his memories of the fourth leg of the BT race, from Sydney to Cape Town, are disturbingly fresh.

"There were times when we were out of control," he was smiling at the chart table, with my knuckles going white, because I knew if the wind gained another knot we'd be in real trouble. But, if I'm honest, part of the buzz of what we do is taking things to the very edge without losing the plot."

"We are pushing these boats to the limit. You have only to look at the amount of rig damage incurred to see that. But the race has changed. It's lost its innocence. The cameraderie is there, but it only emerges when we're at sea and push comes to shove. Then we all realise we've got each other to rely on. I love that, but I know it is time to move on."

For all the horrors of the Southern

DETAILS

LATEST POSITIONS (as at 13.54 GMT yesterday): 1, Group 4 (finished June 7, 12.15.48); 2, Melorita (finished yesterday, 06.42.15); 3, Toshiba Wave Warrior (24 miles to Boston); 4, Courageous International (49 miles); 5, Concord (72); 6, Save The Children (75); 7, Commercial Union (86); 8, Global Venture (142); 9, Nuclear Electric (142); 10, Peace To Remember (222); 11, Health Insured II (319); 12, Ocean Rover (381); 13, 3Com (409); 14, Time & Tide (501)

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Claymores suffer title setback

Scottish Claymores..... 9
London Monarchs..... 10

By RICHARD WETHERELL

THE Scottish Claymores' hopes of retaining their World League title now rest, ironically, with London Monarchs after this result at Murrayfield

yesterday. With Rhein Fire out in front on their own on 6-3, the Claymores (5-4) must beat Barcelona Dragons away next week and hope that the Monarchs beat Rhein in London.

That would still not be enough for the Claymores, however, as the tie-break would then go to points difference, and the Fire have the

advantage. The combined wins must total 50 points for the Claymores to go to Barcelona to the World Bowl in two weeks' time.

In a game typical of their season — low scoring and lacking in offensive spark — it was a missed field goal by Kari Gronroos, late in the third quarter, that ultimately cost Claymores the game against the Monarchs.

The Monarchs opened the scoring with Tony Vinson running in for a two-yard touchdown. The Claymores cut the lead with a Gronroos 30-yard field goal, but Clive Allen re-established the seven-point lead with a short field goal of his own.

Despite starting on their own 28-yard line, and with only 45 seconds remaining in the first half, the Claymores got Gronroos close enough to make the score 6-10 at half-time. He closed the gap to a single point in the third quarter, but the Claymores were unable to add the vital points against a determined and well-organised London defence.

Rhein moved into prime position to reach their first World Bowl with a 24-0 win against Amsterdam on Saturday. Barcelona, though, lost their fourth consecutive game since ensuring that they would host that game, by dint of having the best record in the first half of the season.

ATHLETICS

Backley again fails to steal Zelezny's thunder

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

STEVE BACKLEY, who believes that he is the best physical shape of his life, was unable to match Jan Zelezny yesterday in the first javelin competition of the season between the Olympic gold and silver medal-winners. As competitors in the International Amateur Athletic Federation Grand Prix in Moscow had to contend with atrocious weather, Zelezny defeated Backley by three metres.

This was the second grand prix meeting in four days to be staged in pouring rain. Zelezny was some seven metres down on his best of the season, recording 86.92 metres. Backley, second with 83.90 metres, was five metres short of his winning mark in Latvia a week earlier.

"Steve will be disappointed throwing that distance, no matter the conditions," John Trotter, Backley's coach, said. "Credit to Jan for throwing that well in horrible weather."

Backley, the Commonwealth and European champion, now faces a series of competitions against Zelezny, the world No 1 from the Czech Republic, over the next few weeks, including one at Sheffield in the British Grand Prix on June 29.

When the Great Britain

team for the European Cup in Munich on June 21 and 22 is announced today, Backley will be among those from whom maximum points will be expected, especially as the Czech Republic has not qualified. While there are several events likely to yield British winners, it is an occasion when the result depends just as much on relatively unsung athletes.

While the British women have little chance of victory, the men are the most likely of the seven visiting nations to challenge Germany. One key area is the middle distances and there was heartening news for the selectors, who were informed that John Maycock, Anthony Whiteman and Rob Denmark were all available, to cover the 1,500, 3,000 and 5,000 metres.

Maycock confirmed his form yesterday, finishing second in the Moscow 1,500 metres behind William Tanui. Tanui recorded 3min 36.87sec. Maycock 3min 37.21sec. Britain's only winner was Ashia Hansen, splashing her way to 14.24 metres in the triple jump. Sally Gunnell maintained her race-by-race improvement in the 400 metres hurdles, placing second behind Tatyana Tereshchuk with 55.30sec.

Millar stages masterclass

By PETER BRYAN

ROBERT MILLAR, the only Briton to win the King of the Mountains title in the Tour de France and now, in semi-retirement, national road coach, entered the 111-mile BP Chemicals Five Valleys race based on Port Talbot yesterday. He thought it would give him a more rewarding look at his charges as part of the peloton than possible from a following car. It was his idea of a masterclass in the saddle.

"I'll climb off before the finish," he said at the start, and he was as good as his word, although not before winning the first of five mountain climbs, at Bwch — while I was still fresh — and staying with a breakaway group of 17 that formed 30 miles into the race.

The fugitives stayed clear until the group started entering the finishing circuit.

The leading pack shrank to five riders and, in the dash for the line, Chris Walker, a former Milk Race winner, used his sprinting strength to outpace John Tanner and clinch a hard day's racing in the Welsh mountains and the rain. It was a repeat victory for Walker, who won last year.

For Tanner there was the compensation of holding on to his lead in the Premier Calendar Series, of which the race was the ninth of 16.

Yvonne McGregor's

championship record of 5min 37sec in the 25-mile time trial near Cambridge yesterday augurs well for her attempt on June 18 to regain the world one hour record which she lost last October to Jeannie Longo, of France.



Millar: rewarding look

Once McGregor reached the halfway point more than two minutes faster than Maxine Johnson, her closest challenger, the ultimate destination of the title was hardly in doubt — barring mechanical failure.

A stiff south-easterly provided a headwind finish to the final seven miles, but McGregor maintained her 27mph pace to beat Johnson by 4min 28sec and win the championship for the third year in succession.

Graeme Obree, disenchanted by a lack of grant support this year, ended his controversial career, which has included two world pursuit titles, but he failed to gain any victories in, reportedly, his last track competition, at Dundee on Saturday.

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Amateurs pa

HE IS TIG
AND 18 REASON

Perth Reds show their human side in the rain

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

Since his arrival from Cronulla in April, Stuart Raper, one of Australia's brightest young coaching prospects, has instilled a sense of organisation and purpose about Castledford. It has resulted in a win and two draws in their fight to escape relegation. Despite yesterday's loss, the battling nature of their display

By Our Sports Staff

The Wales rugby league team manager Mike Nicholas yesterday criticised a decision to field a joint England and

SCORERS: Castelford: Tries: Critchley, Tonks, Chapman. Goals: Tonks, Orr. Perth: Tries: Sheals, Grieve. Wilson. Redwell. Goals: Ryan (4).

CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J. Flowers, J. Rouch, J. Crichtley, D. Chapman, C. Smith A. Voyles, M. Ford, L. Crook, R. Russell, D. Sampson, A. Schock, I. Tonks, B. Tuata. Subs: D. Orr, R. Giv, J. Uddien, N. Sykes.

PERTH REDS: G. Fleming, C. Ryan, P. Bell, T. Horan, M. Daylight, S. Wilson, M. Rodwell, B. Green, M. Fuser, R. Kearns, P. Sheals, J. Grieve, D. Higgins. Subs: C. Ridding, D. Chapman, M. Geyer, W. Evans.

Referee: R. Connolly (Wigan).



Wayne Evans, of the Perth Reds, brushes off Schick and the grounded Flowers

Christopher Irvine on
the gulf in class
exposed by the world
club championship

Andy Gregory had no illusions about the challenge that the European game faced and after a 50-8 beating by Adelaide, the Salford coach was even less sanguine. "The Australasian Super League is far superior," he said. "I could try to kid myself and kid the British public by saying everything is going great in our Super League, but it's not."

the Australasian opposition. After Auckland Warriors, the weakest Australasian side, had upended St Helens, the European champions, at Knowsley Road on Friday, Denis Betts spoke of an inferiority complex in the British game. He is right, up to a point. Self-belief cannot combat the speed with which Australian and New Zealand teams play the ball, nor their muscular intensity. Before defences have reassembled they are being broken almost at will. Karl Harrison, the Halifax captain, was not alone when he said that the pace of

The saving grace is the contrived format the guarantees European teams four quarter-final places. As chastening as it would be for them to assemble in the knockout stages with one or perhaps no wins to their name, home advantage could yet send a team into the final, in Australia in October. As for Bradford tonight, Britain expects...

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13 mg Tar 0.9 mg Nicotine

Chief Medical
Marlboro
9 mg Tar

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David Powell reports on the powerful businessmen who are making personal investments in health

Running for their lives

We have all experienced it. Somebody sneering at us because we run. People who tell us that our running is pointless, a waste of time, energy, and bath water. Even if there was any point, they would not run anyway because their lives are far too busy with far more important things.

Detractors of running can scoff if they wish, but they should never argue that they do not have the time. Such an excuse would sound particularly feeble in Battersea Park in south London on July 9. There, in the evening, some of London's busiest and most influential businessmen will be participating in one of Britain's best-loved running events, captains of industry who know when to stop trading and when to go training, bankers monitoring heart rates and pulse rates rather than interest rates.

Among the record number of 10,000 runners who will contest the 11th Chase Corporate Challenge will be a profusion of chief executives, chairmen and managing directors, many trained for the occasion as thoroughly as they would want to see a company report prepared. Of his commitment to running, Bruce Lakefield, chief executive of Lehman Bros, a global investment bank in the City, says: "You have to look at it as a meeting like any other meeting. You have to put it in your mind when you are going to do it and get it done."

Lakefield, aged 53, will be among the participants in the Corporate Challenge, which is organised by the Flora London Marathon. David Bedford, the former 10,000 metres world record holder and race director of the marathon, says that the two most common apologies that he hears for not running are: "I haven't the time to run and I've nowhere to run."

In the words of Alan Gaynor, chief executive of the British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, that is "absolute nonsense. It is down to desire." Gaynor, aged 44, often runs the five miles between his home in Hampstead and his office in Knightsbridge. "I ferry suits and clothes backwards and forwards to make it work," he says. "Occasionally, my wife gets irritated if I dump on her five days of dirty washing that has been accumulating in the office."

"Running has wholly changed my outlook on life. I feel ten years younger and have twice as much energy as I used to have. I took up running five years ago as relaxation. It helps to ease the strain of what would otherwise be a stressful lifestyle."

Gaynor is looking forward to the Corporate Challenge. Though high-flyers do not, as a rule, make foot-flyers, the competitive streak that moulds a successful businessman is evident in his determination to be first chief executive finisher. "Two years ago," Gaynor says, "I was the second chief executive home. The guy who wins is so far ahead of the rest of us, I suspect he is probably an ex county runner. I seriously hope he is not there this year. Unfortunately, I couldn't run last year because I was injured."

Colin Parsons, chairman of Taylor Woodrow, the housing, property investment and construction company, might once have been fast on his feet but now, at 63, the former schoolboy champion miler has a reputation only for endurance. He has been running for 45 years, predating the British running boom by 30 years. Parsons is out on the streets in his kit most mornings at 6.30 — "a guaranteed time I can do it" — and is proud of his resting pulse rate of 45. "Nice and low," he says.

"I run most mornings," he adds. "I started at school. Not being good at anything else, and wanting to be good at something, I found I had an aptitude for running. I have kept it on because it has been a good antidote for office stress and lethargy, which is a real problem with executives who sit around too much, eat too much rich food, and are offered an excess of alcohol."

Parsons enjoys the Corporate Challenge for its "tremendous atmosphere", although its popularity is also its weakness. "It is confined within a narrow track," Parsons says. "So one of the problems, and one of the delights, is that you have a lot of people in a small space. It increases the sense of excitement, but you have to be alert because there are so many people jostling you."

Anybody who clocks up more miles in a week than hours in the office is "probably more committed to running than to work. However, no successful chief executive is ever going to be a high-mileage runner, although Gaynor put in enough miles to cover the London Marathon this year in 3 hours 32 minutes. Unfit, he was introduced to Leslie Watson, Britain's most glamorous international marathon runner of the 1980s, and was hooked. But then, as Gaynor says, "Leslie has turned more 40-year-old men on to running than anybody else on this planet. She is a wonderful advertisement for the sport."

David Williamson, managing director



Colin Parsons, chairman of Taylor Woodrow. Aged 63, he is a former schoolboy champion miler with a reputation for endurance: he has been running for 45 years



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a deal from an early round of the 1996 Gold Cup.

Dealer North Game all IMPs

♠ J763	♥ K	♦ K1097	♣ AK53
♠ A5	♥ Q108532	♦ 8	♣ J76
♠ 10984	♥ 2	♦ A874	♣ AQ543
♠ 2	♥ Q10984	♦ 10	♣ J2
♠ Q10842	♥ 10	♦ 2	♣ 10842

Contract: Five Spades Doubled, by South. Lead: six of diamonds

The East-West bidding was not inspired — Six Hearts is cold for them. West should have bid Two Hearts over One Spade. Graham Kirby (West) led his singleton diamond to East's queen and declarer's jack. East, John Armstrong, attempted to cash the ace of hearts; South ruffed and led a low spade. It is very easy to play too quickly in this kind of situation but Kirby took his time. He knew that East had five hearts and therefore at least six diamonds, leaving him with a maximum of two black cards. If West ducked the spade he could see that, with all the trumps gone but the ace, South could cash his clubs and then put West on play with his trump forcing him to lead a heart. Declarer would ruff in dummy and discard his losing diamond from hand and so make his contract. The danger in rising with the ace of spades was that East might have the bare king. However, that was less likely than the actual lay-out, and in addition an expert partner might well have played the bare king of spades at trick two to avoid such an accident. So Kirby won the ace of spades and exited with a spade and South eventually lost a diamond trick for one off. In the same contract in the other room West ducked the spade, enabling declarer to make his contract via the endplay. Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TENNY
a. Tawny
b. A hold at wrestling
c. Miniature tennis

UNCAUTELOUS
a. Without a foreskin
b. Unwary
c. Rude, ungallant

UPANISHAD
a. A poison tree
b. A treatise
c. A cavalry helmet

TROCO
a. A monocycle
b. A chocolate whirl
c. Billiards

Answers on page 45



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Gioco Piano

Howard Staunton

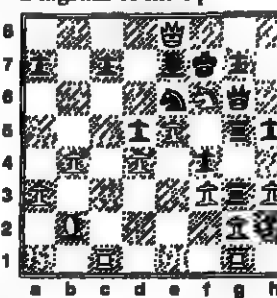
For many years the great British player, organiser and writer on chess, Howard Staunton (1810-1874) has lain in an unmarked grave at London's Kensal Green cemetery. Since 1993 a committee led by Nigel Short, artist Barry Martin and Brian Clivaz, formerly of Simpson's-in-the-Strand, which was a chess club used to be one of Staunton's haunts, have laboured to produce a fitting monument to him.

At 11am on Monday July 28, a black granite memorial with chess knight motif will be unveiled at Kensal Green, and a curtain can be drawn over decades of neglect of one of our greatest chess personalities. Those wishing to attend the memorial service should notify Barry Martin in advance on 0181-744 2868 or at 98 Cople Park Road, Twickenham TW1 1JA.

Staunton organised the very first international tournament, that at London in 1851. Organising and playing do not fit well together and Staunton did less than justice to himself in the tournament. However, he did produce the following snap checkmate against the great Adolf Anderssen, who went on to become the winner of the entire competition.

White: Howard Staunton
Black: Adolf Anderssen
London 1851

Diagram of final position



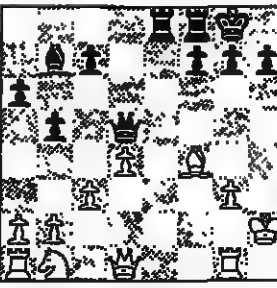
Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. From the game Belenki — Pirrov, Moscow 1958. Although a piece down, Black has tremendous pressure along the e-file and long diagonal. How did he now combine operations along these two avenues to score a quick win?

Solution on page 45



Parsons is out in his kit most mornings at 6.30 — and is proud of his low resting pulse rate

HOW TO ENTER

THE Chase Corporate Challenge, in Battersea Park on July 9, is a three-and-a-half mile team race open to corporations, businesses and financial institutions. Companies can enter runners at all levels of ability, subject to an event maximum of 10,000. Competitors note their own times and give their results to their captains. Officials use video cameras to check times. Falsification will lead to company disqualification.

The captains submit the results of fastest finishers to represent the company team. There are five in a men's team, three in a women's team, and two of each in a mixed team. Each runner may be placed in one team only. Entry forms from the London Marathon, 0171-620-4117. Entries to be in by noon, June 23.

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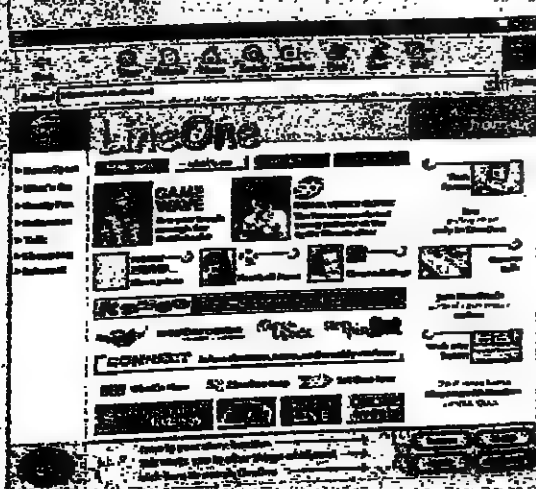
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Council can help only homeless

Regina v Newham London Borough Council, Ex parte Gorenkin
Before Mr Justice Carnwath
[Judgment May 13]

A local authority had no power to provide food vouchers to asylum seekers who were in need of care and attention unless they were also being provided by the council with residential accommodation. Mr Justice Carnwath so held in dismissing the application of Mihail Gorenkin for judicial review to quash Newham London Borough Council's policy of not providing any assistance under section 21 of the 1948 Act to single destitute asylum seekers unless they were homeless or already in accommodation provided by the council.

Mr Stephen Kauler for the applicant, Mr Kevin Rutledge for the council.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the case arose out of

problems created when asylum seekers who did not make applications for asylum at their point of entry were excluded from benefits by the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996.

In *R v Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council, Ex parte H* [1996] 1 All ER 1000, the Court of Appeal (The Times February 19, 1997) had held that the council was nevertheless subject to a duty to provide such persons with shelter, warmth and food which were essential to all human beings, by virtue of its duty under section 21 of the 1948 Act to provide "residential accommodation for persons... who by reason of age, illness, disability or any other circumstances are in need of care and attention."

The applicant had come to the United Kingdom by bus from Ukraine and obtained a room at £31 a week. He applied for assistance from the council which was refused. The council's policy was that food vouchers were stopped after April 1997, the reason given being: "as

you have somewhere to stay". The council's policy was adopted in response to legal advice which said that it had no power to provide food vouchers if no accommodation was provided to an asylum seeker, that it had no discretion in the matter and that it could be subject to legal sanctions by the district auditor and others.

The surprising result was that where asylum seekers had no accommodation and no food the council could help. But where they had accommodation but no food, they had to become homeless before they could get help.

It was argued for the applicant that the council had looked at the matter wrongly and that the question was not whether the applicant and others awaiting the outcome of the case, needed accommodation but whether they needed "care and attention".

Against that the council said that the reference to "care and attention" had to be seen in the context of section 21 of the 1948 Act which was dealing with accommodation so that the sort of care and

attention needed was that which was required with residential accommodation.

The 1948 Act did not envisage the situation relating to asylum seekers which had arisen. But his Lordship was bound by the Court of Appeal to treat it as covering the situation. It was implicit that the "care and attention" referred to was that which could be met by residential accommodation.

That was also clear from the secretary of state's directions released on May 1, 1993 and published as Appendix A to Department of Health Circular No LAC(93)10 which stated that the duty arose when persons were in urgent "need thereof", namely of accommodation.

The council was right to review its policy and right when it said, on legal advice, that the practice of providing food vouchers for single asylum seekers for whom accommodation was not being provided would have to be stopped.

Solicitors: Chare & Co, West Kensington; Mr J. D. Smith, East Ham.

Rowe v Herman and Others
Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Morritt and Sir Brian Neill
[Judgment May 7]

An occupier employing an independent contractor who created a hazard on the adjacent highway in order to carry out private works on the occupier's land was not under a duty of care to ensure that when the contractor withdrew from the works there were no remaining hazards which could injure a third party.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the first defendant, Peter Ian Herman, from the order of Judge Vileon at Barnet County Court on September 19, 1996 refusing his application to strike out the claim of the plaintiff, Rowland Alexander Rowe. The first and second defendants, who were the owners and occupiers of 246 High Road, East Finchley, London, engaged the third defendant company, L. Lynch (Plant Hire and Haulage) Ltd, as independent contractors, to build a garage there.

For the purpose of those works and more particularly to protect the paving stones outside No 246 against the passage of heavy lorries delivering to site, the third defendants laid metal plates across the footway which they left when they had completed the works and vacated the site.

The plaintiff, while walking home late at night, tripped over one of the metal plates and fractured his right ankle. He sued the first, second and third defendants in negligence. He also sued the fourth defendants, the highway authority, for negligence and breach of statutory duty for failing to have the metal plates removed.

Mr Francis Treasure for the first defendant, Mr Quintin Iwi for the plaintiff, the other defendants did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the judge had held that there was a duty on occupiers such as the first and second defendants "when the contractor withdraws from the works to ensure that there are no remaining hazards which could injure a third party". The question before the court was whether that was a correct view of the law.

The starting point for consideration must be the basic principle that an employer was not liable for an independent contractor's negligence: see *Salsburg v Woodland* [1970] 1 QB 324, 330 per Lord Justice Widgery.

There were two main classes of case in which the employer was held to be under a non-delegable duty: first, cases where the work commissioned involved extra hazardous acts; second, cases where danger was created by work on a highway.

There was no question of the works in the instant case involving extra hazardous acts. As to work on a highway, the judge below readily accepted that the first defendant's contention that the work was carried out on private land, not on the highway, and that it was entirely the contractor's idea to put down those metal plates.

There was accordingly no liability on the first defendant as employer while the contractor was undertaking the contract work on site. The judge, however, had held that once the contractor had left the site there then sprang up a duty on the employer to ensure that no hazards had been left behind on the highway.

Although on its face the appeal concerned that springing duty, their Lordships saw great difficulty with such a notion and thought it right to consider whether the case should properly be regarded as one involving a non-delegable duty on the employer akin to that arising in the highway cases.

Their Lordships accordingly explored the true nature of the highway exception. An early illustration of it was to be found in *Penny v Wimbledon Urban District Council* [1899] 2 QB 72.

Mr Iwi, while not principally concerned with the situation arising before the contractor left the site, nevertheless sought to rely on *Penny*. There was, he pointed out, a marked similarity between the accident in the present case and the accident there.

Both involved the plaintiff walk-

ing at night into an unlit and unprotected obstacle on the highway, there a heap of soil, in the present case a metal plate. There should, he submitted, be liability in the present case just as there was there.

In his Lordship's judgment, however, there were two critical differences between the present case and *Penny* and, indeed, the other highway cases.

First, the highway cases all involved obstruction to the highway as a result of work being carried out under statutory powers. Second, the obstruction arose in these cases directly from the work which the employer himself was required to do and was integral to it.

In the present case, by contrast, not merely were the first and second defendants not obliged to build a garage in the first place, but there was no suggestion that it was in fact a necessary part of the necessary part of the contract work which the employer himself was required to do and was integral to it.

Given, moreover, that they constituted a hazard one might suppose that the highway authority's permission was required for them, as for a builder's skip.

If permission was required and not obtained, it was impossible to regard the laying of those plates as a necessary part of the contract work. If permission was obtained, it seemed likely to have been granted subject to conditions to promote safety and no doubt a condition also as to removal at the end of the period of permission.

His Lordship entertained no doubt, therefore, that the plaintiff's accident occurred during the course of the contract works, the first and second defendants as occupiers could not have been held liable for it.

Why, then, should they suddenly come under a duty once their contractor left the site? If they were not responsible for those plates even while they were being used for the purpose of building the garage, why should they be responsible for them afterwards? The question appeared to his Lordship to be unanswerable.

By the same token that the employer had no control over the manner in which his independent contractor carried out his work, the reasoning underlying the general rule, so too he had no control over the way his independent contractor cleared up.

An occupier was responsible for any dangers created on his own land but he was not to be treated for all the world as if he were the occupier also of the adjacent highway.

His Lordship would rule as a matter of law that no duty of care arose in the present case such as to found the claim against the first defendant. His Lordship would strike out the pleading against him as one disclosing no cause of action.

Lord Justice Morritt and Sir Brian Neill agreed.

Solicitors: Chambers Rutland & Crawford, Finchley; Chesham & Co, The Hyde.

Time allowed to accept payment

Harding v Cartwright

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hutton and Lord Justice Mummery
[Judgment May 7]

A defendant who made a payment into court under Order 11, rule 3 of the County Court Rules 1981 could not apply to strike out the action pursuant to Order 9, rule 10 during the 21 days which the plaintiff was given to accept the money.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Diane Cartwright, against the decision of Judge G. O. Edwards, QC, at Croydon County Court on May 2, 1996 returning the order of the district judge and holding that the action, by the plaintiff, Deborah Harding, for damages for personal injury had not been struck out pursuant to Order 9, rule 10 of the County Court Rules.

Mr John A. Phillips for the defendant, Mr Robin Spencer for the plaintiff.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the issue to be considered was the interaction of the provisions dealing with payment into court in Order 11, rule 3 with the strike-out provisions in Order 9, rule 10.

Order 11, rule 3 provided that there should be 21 days for the acceptance of money paid into court. The standard form notice N243 was sent to a plaintiff by the court stating: "If you accept the

payment... you must give written notice of acceptance in the court and every other party within 21 days..."

The question was what happened if, before the expiry of those 21 days, the defendant applied for the action to be struck out under Order 9, rule 10 on the grounds that 12 months had expired from the date of service of the summons and no admission, defence or counterclaim had been delivered and judgment had not been entered against the defendant.

In his Lordship's judgment, where there was a payment into court in which Order 11, rule 3 applied, then, for the 21 days referred to in notice N243, Order 9, rule 10 could have no application. It would be wholly inappropriate where the court sent out a notice saying that a plaintiff had 21 days to accept a payment into court that the defendant should be able, during those 21 days, to take a course which would prevent the plaintiff taking the money out of court.

The only way that effect could be given to the notice was to say that Order 9, rule 10 was suspended during those 21 days.

Lord Justice Hutton gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Geoffrey Warhurst & Co, Manchester; Beckman & Beckman for Arthur J. S. Hall & Co, Croydon.

Indictments are valid despite failure to sign

Regina v Jackson and Others

Before Lord Justice Judge, Mr Justice Longmore and Mr Justice Brian Smedley
[Judgment May 13]

Where a judge concluded that there was insufficient nexus to justify the joinder of counts in a three-count indictment and ordered re-arraignment on two fresh indictments, the fact that the proper officer of the court failed to comply with the judge's unequivocal direction that she should sign the fresh indictments did not render those indictments invalid.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing one of the grounds of appeal put forward by five appellants who on April 1, 1996 were sentenced by Judge Farrer, QC at Birmingham Crown Court to substantial terms of imprisonment following convictions for conspiracy, in mob shops and post offices and possession of a prohibited weapon.

Mr J. C. Price, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellants; Mr S. D. Brand for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE, giving the reserved judgment of the court on the ground of appeal that the failure by the proper officer to sign the indictment rendered the trials a nullity, said that the appellants relied on *R v Morris* [1948] 87 Cr App R 91 to support the submission that the signature of the proper officer of the court was a mandatory requirement.

One important distinction from *Morris* was that in the present case, before arraignment on the fresh indictments, the judge had exercised the discretion granted to him as the trial judge by the proviso to section 3(1) of the Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1933 and of his own motion had directed in open court that the proper officer should sign the fresh indictments.

Their Lordships did not regard *Morris* as authority for the proposition that the separate jurisdiction given to the trial judge in connection with the appropriate procedures could be frustrated merely because the proper officer of the court failed to sign the bill in accordance with the judge's instructions.

If the judge gave such an instruction the proper officer ceased to have any independent jurisdiction. Once the judge made the direction he did, the proper officer had no function other than to apply her signature. In that unusual situation her signature was, to adopt the language used in *Morris*, a meaningless clerical formality.

In those circumstances, the proper officer should be deemed to have appended her signature. Accordingly, the indictment on which the appellants were tried and convicted was not a nullity.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Birmingham.

Occupier not liable for hazard

Objective test whether premises prejudicial to health

Cunningham v Birmingham City Council

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Asill
[Judgment May 6]

The proper test to apply in assessing whether or not premises were in such a state as to be prejudicial to health under section 79(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 was objective rather than subjective.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held allowing an appeal by Birmingham City Council by way of case stated against a decision of Mr Viscount Manning-Davies, Birmingham Stipendiary Magistrate, on June 21, 1996 on an information laid by Mrs Carol Cunningham that a statutory nuisance had arisen and continued to exist at 15 Leydown Grove, Acocks Green, which she occupied with her two children.

The council offered to abate the alleged statutory nuisance but refused to carry out the building

works the occupier contended were required in view of the autism of her son.

One of the questions for the court was whether section 79(1)(a) of the 1990 Act was to be interpreted subjectively or objectively.

Section 79 of the 1990 Act provides: "(1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4) below, the following matters constitute 'statutory nuisances' for the purposes of this Part, that is to say— (a) any premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance..."

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Roderick Henderson for the council; Mr James Findlay for the occupier.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said there were two limbs to section 79(1)(a) "prejudicial to health" and "nuisance".

It was common ground that an objective test was to be applied to "nuisance" and he could not accept the submission that the presence of an objective test on one limb was a

ground for holding "prejudicial to health" was a subjective test: see *Salford County Council v McAlvaly* [1976] AC 379, 389, 393, 394; *Southwark London Borough Council v Ince* [1989] 21 HLR 504; and *NCB v Thomas* [1976] 1 WLR 545, 549.

Lord Justice Woolf's observation in *Southwark* that in drawing up an abatement notice magistrates should use discretion and common sense (at 551H) was inconsistent with the occupier's approach that the test was subjective.

The obligation on private landlords would be enormous if they had to take into account the health of individual occupiers.

The stipendiary magistrate was wrong to relate the respondent's duty to the particular health requirements of the son of the occupier.

Mr Justice Asill agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Stewart Dobson, Birmingham; McGrath & Co, Birmingham.

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW

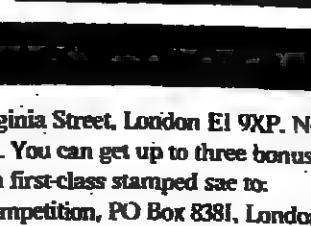
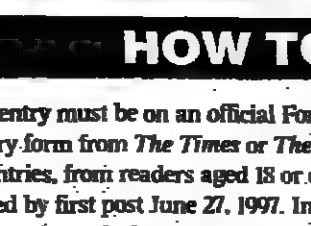
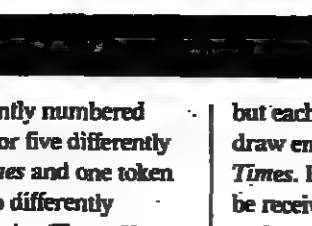
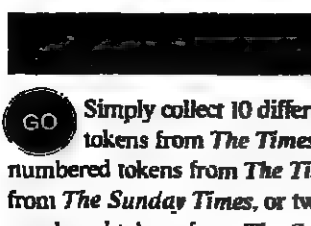
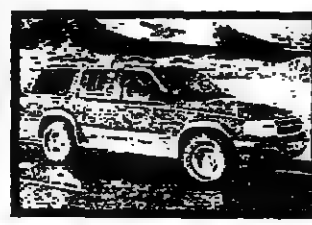
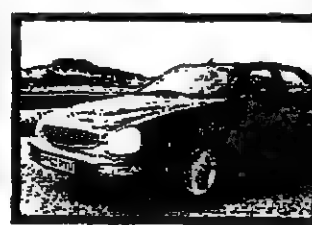
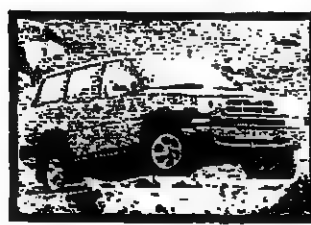
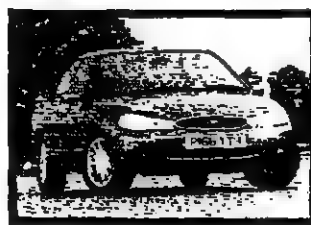
THE TIMES

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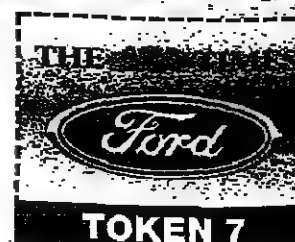


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CHANGING TIMES

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Baillie Gifford Japan, Howle Holdings, Ideal Hardware, Treant, Unidare. Finals: Acal, Amberley Gp, BAA Group, James Cropper, Electrocomponents, Ham-bros Investments, Henderson, Hyder, Offshore International, Renold, Safeland, Christian Salvesen, Technofan, Umeco. Economic statistics: UK housing starts and completions (April), UK industrial and manufacturing output (April), UK producer prices (May), UK CBI annual innovation trends survey, Hong Kong markets closed.

TOMORROW

Interims: Leeds Group, Finals: Babcock International, British Thornton, Charles Stanley Gp, Davenport Knitwear, Drummond Group, FirstBus, Macdonald Hotels, Marshalls, MCIT, Northern Foods, Severn Trent, Volvo Group, Whitehead Mann, Zambia Consolidated Copper. Economic statistics: UK British Retail Consortium retail sales survey (May), API weekly oil supply statistics.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Denmans Electrical, Expro International, Fountain Forestry, Granada Group, Finals: Bradford Property Trust, British Land, Bristol Water Holdings, Ensor Holdings, GWR Group, Leigh Interests, Meyer International, Moorgate Smaller, ELLA Tinsley Group, WT Foods. Economic statistics: UK unemployment (May), average earnings (April), unit wage costs (April), UK winter labour force survey.

THURSDAY

Interims: Dawhurst, Energy Group, Daily Mail & General Trust, Eurodollar (Holdings), FKJ, Haristone Proteas, Scottish Hydro-Electric, Fuller Smith & Turner, Scapec. Economic statistics: UK retail price index (May), US retail sales (May), US weekly jobless claims.

FRIDAY

Interims: Bumdene Investments, Finals: Martin Currie European, Osborne & Little. Economic statistics: UK CBI property trends survey.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

BAA revenues expected to take off

BAA GROUP: Full-year figures from the independent airport operator published today will be overshadowed by a £40 million write-off of capitalised interest relating to the Terminal 5 project. Pre-tax profits are predicted to run out at £440 million before the write-off, against £403 million last time. Earnings per share are also set to grow to 32p (29.1p).

A key factor behind the increase in profitability will be a 4.6 per cent rise in passenger numbers to 98 million last year, with freight volumes up almost 6 per cent. It is also estimated that revenue from traffic charges will have grown almost 8 per cent to £403 million, while retail income is up 9.2 per cent at £608 million and property income is up 3 per cent to £230 million.

Overall revenues are likely to be up 8 per cent at £1.35 billion. Against this, the group will have to offset a further 6.2 per cent rise in costs which previously reached £860 million. The payout should rise 11 per cent to £25p.

GRANADA: The full benefits of the Forte acquisition will become apparent when the hotels and leisure group unveils half-year figures on Wednesday. They should reveal a sharp jump in pre-tax profits from £183.5 million to £239 million, while earnings should show a modest increase of 4 per cent to 18.9p. But the figures will also confirm that the £100 million of incremental profits during the £3.1 billion bid has been delivered.

Exceptional items are expected to include a £140 million contribution on the disposal of Welcom Break along with a £100 million write-back of goodwill relating to computer maintenance and a £10 million charge for restructuring the rentals business.

In the meantime, the market will no doubt be anxious for further information about the disposal of certain exclusive properties, including the Grosvenor House, and the stake in the Savoy Hotel. Offers have also been invited for the computer maintenance business and there is a question mark over volumes at Little Chef after menu changes.

20	DELAYED	10
10	DELAYED	9
45	DELAYED	11
15	DELAYED	12



Sir John Egan, BAA chief executive, will announce a £40 million write-off relating to Terminal 5

Shareholders are likely to be rewarded with an increase in the payout of 11 per cent to 4.7p.

HYDER: The utilities reporting season continues apace today with full-year figures from the second of the combined water and electricity companies. Pre-tax profits should show a healthy increase of almost 30 per cent from £168 million to £215 million, with earnings per share up 8p at 121p. Brokers will be seeking evidence of further integration savings after the merger of Welsh Water and South Wales Electric.

A dividend increase of 14 per cent to 44p will be in line with the rest of the sector.

SEVERN TRENT: A virtually static performance is expected of the group when it unveils full-year figures tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in roughly unchanged at £373 million, with earnings per share 3p higher at 92.5p, compared with 89.6p last time. However, the figures are likely to contain provisions relating to the aborted bid for South West Water last summer. The outcome will

also have been affected by efforts to relieve the drought.

Another solid performance from its Biffa waste services division in this country will have been offset by a disappointing performance in Belgium. NatWest is forecasting a contribution of £24 million which is unlikely to cover financing costs. NatWest is also looking for a final payment of 21.6p, stretching the year's total to 36.6p against 30.5p last time.

SCOTTISH HYDRO-ELECTRIC: Despite the impact of rising costs, the group is expected

to produce a healthy increase in the dividend of 11 per cent from 15.76p to 17.5p when it unveils full-year figures on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are expected to rise 4 per cent from £195 million to £203 million and earnings per share from 38.7p to 40.3p.

The second successive year of drier than average weather means the group has had to burn more coal, thus increasing the cost of generating electricity. To counter this the group has been steadily growing its English supply and generation operation.

NORTHERN FOODS: Tomorrow's announcement of full-year figures should reveal a small increase in profitability. At the pre-tax level they should be up 3 per cent from £124 million to £128 million, with earnings 2 per cent ahead at 16p. The cut in supermarket milk prices came as a shock to the market, but NatWest does not expect it to have an adverse effect on margins. The prepared food division is likely to have achieved a better result than originally expected. However, this improvement will be offset by the depressed prices of dairy by-products. The payout is likely to go up from 9p to 9.5p.

FKI: Full-year figures on Thursday, will clearly underline the benefits of the group's recent acquisition programme. Pre-tax profits are expected to grow by almost a third to £116 million, with earnings per share achieving a 23 per cent increase to 13.8p. But organic growth is showing signs of slowing and this has worried City investors. Their fears may well be soothed by the 12 per cent increase in the net payout to 5.8p.

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN: Buoyant trading at its Aggreko subsidiary and a recovery in food services will have paved the way for a 12 per cent increase in pre-tax profits from £76.6 million to £86 million when finals are announced today. Earnings are likely to be up 10 per cent at 22.8p. Aggreko, which is to be demerged next year, is expected to turn in profits of £39 million, up 27 per cent on the previous year.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

EMU turmoil tops agenda

The growing EMU turmoil is likely to be at the top of the agenda today as EU finance ministers meet in Luxembourg for the monthly Ecofin. The market wants to establish the exact position of the new French Government on EMU, and is still awaiting full details on the compromise being hammered out between the German Government and the Bundesbank over gold revaluation. Britain will be seeking to persuade the other countries to put aside some of their EMU worries to concentrate on jobs and the completion of the single market.

In the UK, the market's main focus on Wednesday will be the employment data, which has been closely monitored by the Bank of England in recent months. MMS International, the economic forecasting group, predicts that the April figures for average earnings will show growth accelerating from 4.5 per cent to 5 per cent. Unemployment is expected to fall again, although the rate of decline will slow to reflect the end of the distorting impact of the jobseeker's allowance. MMS forecasts a fall of 40,000 in May (April: 59,000).

The May inflation figures, to be published on Thursday, are not expected to bring too many surprises, with both headline and underlying inflation predicted to remain close to the levels seen in April. MMS forecasts underlying inflation will rise from 2.5 per cent to 2.6 per cent, just above the Government's target figure.

The industrial production figures for April, due today, are expected to show a small improvement in manufacturing output after March's unexpected fall. It is predicted to rise by 0.2 per cent, taking the annual rate to 2 per cent from 1.4 per cent in March. Producer price data for May, which is also released today, will show the strong pound continuing to cause a fall in the price of raw materials. Annual growth in factory-gate prices is forecast to accelerate from 0.5 per cent in April to 1.4 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Hold Country Casuals, Tibbury Douglas and BAA. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Retam, Ideal Hardware, Courts, Revelation Piccadilly, Pillar Property and Luminar, Independent on Sunday: Buy Vodafone and Seton Healthcare. The Sunday Express: Buy BTG, Campbell and Armstrong. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Television Corporation. Sell Finelint.

ENI shares to be offered to British

BY FRASER NELSON

BRITISH investors will be offered £300 million of shares in ENI, the Italian oil and gas company that is the subject of one of this year's largest equity placements.

The Italian Government is selling a further 12.5 per cent of ENI in an international placing to raise \$5.13 billion. The placing is being made in a series of worldwide tranches, with a \$3.29 billion stake available to institutional shareholders. Italian retail investors are being invited to apply at a 3.5 per cent discount to the market, and ENI's employees at a 4 per cent discount.

The Italian Government will hold a 56 per cent stake after the placing. It has already sold some 31 per cent of the company through two other tranches. The first, in

November 1995, flopped but the shares have since risen by 40 per cent. The last placing, which raised some \$5.9 billion, was held seven months ago and was three times oversubscribed.

ENI is the largest company on the Italian stock exchange, and the eighth largest oil and gas company in the world. Last year, it generated operating income of \$6.32 billion on sales of \$38.8 billion.

The sell-off is the central plank of Italy's tentative privatisation programme. So far, only two companies have been fully privatised: INA, an insurer, and IMI, a financial services company. In both cases, the shares were placed into the hands of "core" shareholders, largely public sector banks.

Scrapping August car change 'will cost jobs'

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

SCRAPPING the August registration letter change would cost the British motor industry 10,000 jobs and £740 million in sales, according to a report published today.

KPMG Management Consulting gives warning that plans to get rid of the system in which the year identifier on registration plates is changed each August could cost up to 50,000 car sales, with the impact spreading through manufacturers, dealers and component suppliers.

Roger Cockcroft, KPMG's automotive consultant, said: "Without August 1 as a focus for sales, the new-car market will drift and 50,000 sales will be lost. No way should we be prepared to lose 10,000 jobs



Time for a new identity?

just to iron out the autumn sales bulge."

The August sales boom accounts for a quarter of new cars sold each year. Barbara Castle, the Transport Secretary, introduced the system in 1963 to help to identify cars ready for what was then the new MOT test. The original change was in January but dealers pleaded for August when sales were slow.

When the letter change was moved to August in 1967, that month's sales initially accounted for just 7.9 per cent of the annual total. Now, however, the August sales bulge costs the industry more than £30 million a year as dealer staff work 18-hour days in the run-up to August 1, manufacturers speed up assembly lines in June and July and the industry keeps 300,000 cars in stock. Dealers are taking orders for August cars now, causing a slump in sales this month and in July.

The Conservative Government was committed to change by 2004. But KPMG says the proposals for change were "fatally flawed". Mr Cockcroft added: "There is a case for change, but our research shows that August's 25 per cent share of UK registrations cannot be blamed just on the one-upmanship of the new letter. The new calendar year in Europe does not trigger a leap in sales, so why should the UK be different?"

EDS tops computer table

BY FRASER NELSON

EDS, the American computer services group, has overtaken Japan's ICL to become the biggest name in the British software and computer services industry, according to a report due this week.

The Holway Report, an annual publication with a wide following in the City, finds that EDS saw the value of its contracts surge by 46 per cent last year, to £765 million. Overseas computer

companies have the lion's share of the UK market, with IBM second with a £600 million share, and ICL sliding to third with UK contracts worth £578 million in 1996.

GEC-Marconi is the only fully British company in the top ten, ranking eighth with profits of £270 million. Sema, the Anglo-French but London-listed company, was fourth with a market share worth £361 million.

Microsoft has slid from seventh to ninth, with UK profits up only 16 per cent to £260 million. The software house estimates that it loses a similar amount of money in the UK through piracy.

The software and computing services market as a whole grew to £10.9 billion in 1996, growing by 17 per cent. Profitability per employee rose by 10 per cent last year, to £5,600 a year, the report adds.

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THE TIMES LONDON
ECONOMIC OUTLOOK
EMU turns
tops agenda
T

Mr. Brown is expected to announce in the Budget on July 2 both the amount of the windfall tax, the companies that are affected and the formula by which it will be implemented. He is not expected to detail the individual payments for companies, although they will be obliged to issue guidance to the Stock Exchange as soon as they can. The Stock Exchange screens are likely to be deluged with indications of provisions from the companies the following day — along with any sign of

Yields

AIT Group, which provides computer services to the financial sector, plans to join the main market next month, valued £20 million to £25 million. Founded 11 years ago, it made pre-tax profit of £1.6 million in the year to March 31, up from £1.1 million. It is raising £2 million through a placing sponsored by Greig Middleton.



This suggests that the Bank should now separate the mechanical and judgmental parts of its work. The inflation forecast should become an explicitly mechanical process, with published equations and assumptions, and a reasonably well-defined process for updating that forecasting system. At the same time, its role

FRASER NELSON

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167	130	150	110	AMCO	130	110	150	130	110	130	110	150	130	110	130	110	150	130	110
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 **AIR NEW ZEALAND**

Dresdner's party sparks outcry over Nazi past

By Oliver August

DRESDNER BANK, the German owner of Kleinwort Benson, has sparked a damaging dispute over its Nazi past by a high-profile celebration of its 125th anniversary.

Dresdner's critics accuse it of hushing up its substantial role in financing Hitler's war and the building of the concentration camps.

Protesters have threatened to disrupt today's festivities to celebrate the bank's anniversary, which will be attended by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

German financial institutions have become the latest target of anti-Nazi protests after controversy over Swiss Nazi gold. In April, Allianz, the German insurance group, was forced to honour outstanding insurance claims from Holocaust survivors and victims' heirs.

There are also new allegations that Allianz had direct links with the Nazi government that led to it writing policies to insure building work at the Auschwitz concentration camp. Tom Bower, the British biographer who wrote a seminal work on the Nazi regime, said: "These accusations come out of Switzerland, based on German documents."

Dresdner, which bought Kleinwort for £1 billion in 1995, has been criticised in *Die Zeit* newspaper for denying its involvement in Nazi atrocities. An article said: "History cannot be written off in the same way that bad debts are."

So close was Dresdner's relationship with the Nazis that there was a saying in Germany during the war: "First come the tanks, then the Dresdner Bank". Throughout the Nazi era, Dresdner was a linchpin of the military industrial complex, according to Mr Bower.

He said: "Dresdner Bank behaved badly, as did some other German banks, enriching themselves from the war. They knew full well what they were doing. They were financing war crimes and concentra-

tion camps. But Dresdner just supposed that. People in London should be aware of this, but they are not."

Dresdner was never able to fully deny its involvement with the Nazis. Karl Rasche, the wartime chairman, was convicted by the Allies at the Nuremberg trials.

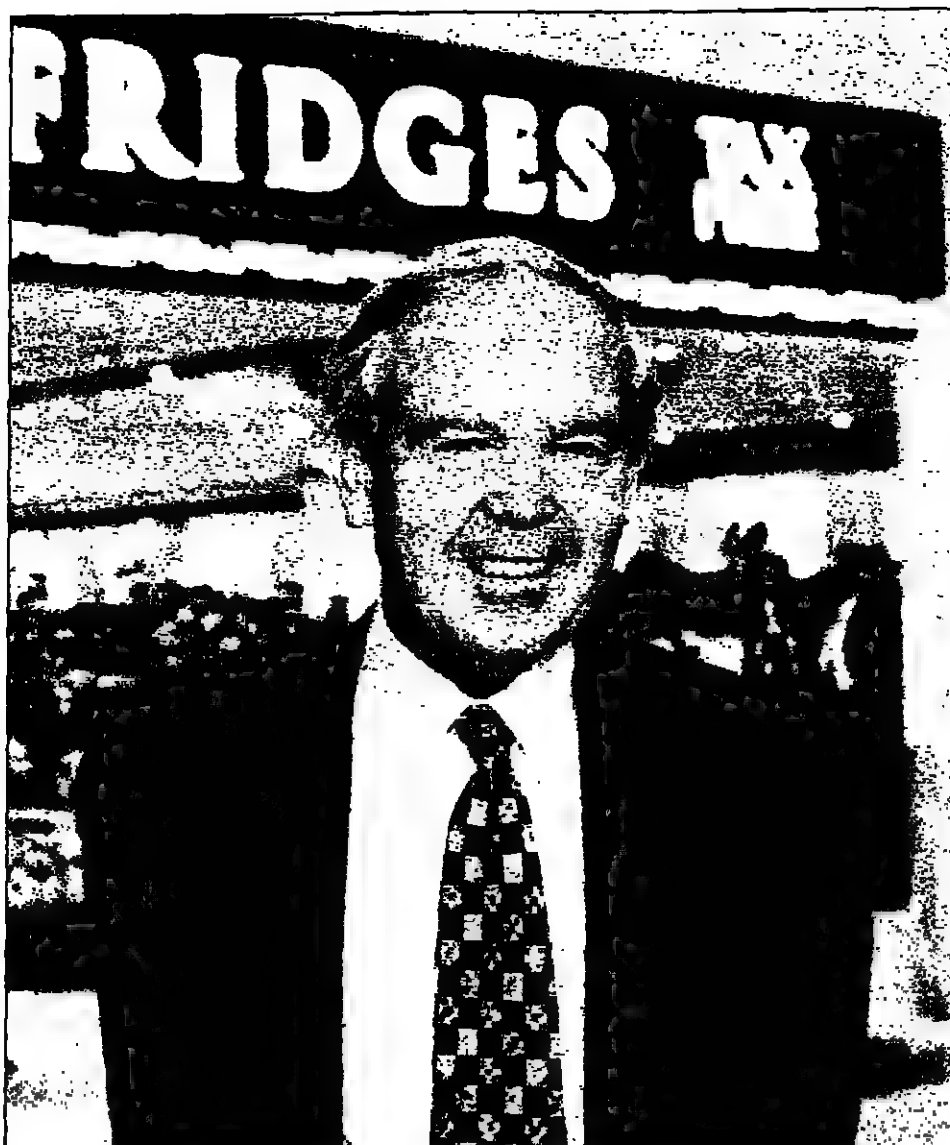
However, the bank maintains that its involvement has been exaggerated. Asked about the latest accusations, a spokesman said: "We have a Jewish founder family. During the Third Reich, we were forced to participate. Every company was disciplined by the SS, that was normal. It was the method of the totalitarian system."

The main criticism of today's Dresdner management is that it tries to deny the bank's guilt by shifting all the blame to the Nazi politicians. Other equally guilty German banks have escaped criticism by publicly showing regret.

When Deutsche Bank celebrated its 125th anniversary, two years ago, it asked an American historian to write an objective account of its Nazi past. Mr Bower said: "At least Deutsche Bank tried to indulge in an act of self-cleansing."

Insiders at Kleinwort Benson fear that the Nazi dispute could affect its business in London by association. Some of Britain's biggest companies are clients of Kleinwort Benson, including Abbey National, Cable and Wireless, Cadbury Schweppes and Storehouse. The bank has £14 billion in funds under management in company pension schemes, unit trusts and investment trusts.

At the time of the Dresdner takeover, some clients expressed concern that Dresdner's assets had been boosted by its association with the Nazis. Greville Janner, the former Labour MP and secretary of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, had described the takeover as "revolting".



Sir Bob Reid is expected to set out the changes at Sears's annual meeting on June 24

Sears poised to announce boardroom shake-up

By Sarah Cunningham

SEARS, the struggling retail group, is to introduce sweeping board changes before the demerger of Selfridges next year. Sir Bob Reid, chairman, is expected to announce the appointment of new executive and non-executive directors at the company's annual meeting on June 24.

He has indicated that one or two of the current directors may also be the quit the board. Among those likely to join is Ian Cheshire, Sears's group commercial director.

Sir Bob says he wants to increase the number of directors so there will be enough to staff the boards of both Selfridges and of what will remain of Sears after the split. The rumour will include the

Wallis, Miss Selfridge, Richards and Warehouse womenswear chains.

Mr Cheshire would fill the place left by Rebecca Cottrell, who resigned a fortnight ago after her job as head of British Shoe was effectively taken over by David James, the company director brought into the sort out the business.

Sears's non-executive directors have come in for sharp criticism from some investors for not doing enough to pass on shareholders' concerns, particularly over the strategy of Liam Strong, who resigned as chief executive in April after five controversial years.

Sears's longstanding, non-executive directors are: Sir Allick Rankin, 62, the chair-

man of General Accident and Christian Salvesen, who was appointed to the board in 1991; David Macdonald, 60, chairman of Pittards and on the Sears board since 1981; and Lord Tebbit, 66, the former Cabinet minister, who joined Sears's board in 1987.

Sir Bob Reid, who is 63, joined the board in April 1995 and became chairman two months later. He always gave Mr Strong his full backing, and came under some pressure himself to quit the company earlier this year.

The most recent addition to the board has been Allison Carnwath, 44, a senior partner at Phoenix Securities, who joined as a non-executive in September last year.

Surge in profit related pay plans

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANIES are making much greater use of profit-related pay schemes in the run-up to the loss of the associated tax benefits, new pay evidence suggests today.

Pay specialists believe that the escalating cost of the PRP schemes may lead Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to take the opportunity of his first Budget to accelerate their phasing out. The cost of tax relief on PRP schemes reached more than £1.5 billion last year. The schemes, introduced a decade ago, are already set to lose their reliefs over the next three years.

Some pay analysts are suggesting that an end to PRP schemes may add an average of 3.5 per cent to pay bills. In some cases, firms may have to top up their employees' pay by as much as 8.4 per cent. Some management consultants suggest that companies affected may press the Government for compensation.

Incomes Data Services, the independent pay analyst, says there has been an "upsurge" in companies adopting PRP schemes in order to gain the tax benefit. Drawing on Inland Revenue figures, IDS says that last November there were 14,000 PRP schemes, covering 3.7 million employees. By this April, the number of live schemes had risen to 14,553, covering 4.1 million employees.

IDS asks that with tax relief now costing so much, "will the new Chancellor be tempted to change the timescale of the phase-out in his Budget?"

On pay generally, IDS says that most current settlements are now for 3 to 4 per cent, with private sector deals in particular nudging ahead.

Two-fifths of personnel managers are in favour of Labour's plans for the legal recognition of trade unions. Poll findings for the magazine *Personnel Today*, show that public services are least opposed to the proposals, with only 37 per cent not in favour, compared with 59 per cent overall among personnel chiefs.

Management training and development in Britain's companies has almost doubled in the past ten years, the Institute of Management says today.

Hermès taps into a rich British vein

Fraser Nelson on the fashionable house with designs on the UK

The world is divided into... those who use money to achieve their goals and those for whom money is their goal. Our customers fall into the first category.

Jean-Louis Dumas-Hermès, philosopher-chairman of the French fashion house that bears his family name, hates to bore shareholders. The company's annual meeting is told that the customer is a social classification in itself — uncompromising, individualistic and, most importantly, rich but "not rich enough to afford to buy cheap".

As for the company it is not so much a retailer as a hunter, a musician, a horse breaking into a gallop — anything but a corporate body. As for the profits surging to £85 million

scarves for £200, bags for £2,000 and watches for £4,000. Even those who can afford the clothes are frequently placed on a waiting list, with delivery often 12 months away. The harder the clothes are to obtain, the more desirable they become and the more famous Hermès becomes everywhere.

Everywhere, that is, except in Britain. Outside Kensington and Chelsea, Hermès is not a household name. It has a strange kind of fame; it is a legend among those who can afford its wares but often unknown among those who aspire to Armani and Gucci.

This has never been an issue that has cost M. Dumas-Hermès much sleep: those who haven't heard of Hermès probably can't afford to shop there anyway.

Its strategy is not to paint its name on inner-city buses, he says. The Hermès customer is discreetly wealthy and wants to avoid products that are anything as crude as a statement.

And Hermès is finding growing numbers of these people in Britain. At last month's shareholder meeting, the lucky few who own the 13 per cent of shares not held by the Hermès family were intro-

duced to Glasgow as one of the five cities deemed by the company to have enough of "our sort of customer" to sustain a new branch. It ranked beside Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Düsseldorf. Praise indeed.

The only problem for Hermès is finding enough reputable suppliers to pass on its goods. Its UK office explains: Hermès products cannot be sold by "just anybody". Harrods is acceptable. Hermès has a stall in the "hall of luxury" department, but there are few others approved to pass on the torch. Nevertheless, the British are biting and Hermès has designs to bring Leeds and Manchester into the fold. To M. Dumas-Hermès, Britain's cities now contain enough of that rare species, the Hermès customer, to be placed on its map of the world's ultra-rich.



Hermès style on show

Green audits on the increase

By Fraser Nelson

ENVIRONMENTAL reporting is being taken increasingly seriously by Britain's largest companies with one in ten of the FT-SE 100 stocks backing their report with an external audit, according to a report released today by KPMG.

A separate environmental report is produced by 79 of the FTSE 100 companies, it said, although only one in ten go as far as to have this audited. However, this is a huge advance from 1993 when only three of the largest companies produced such a report.

The survey comes the month after Shell came under fire for its reluctance to environmental policies subjected to external scrutiny. RTZ, the mining company, faced a shareholder protest over the same issue in March and even the Prudential faced questions about its environmental reporting policy from shareholders three weeks ago.

Overall, British companies proved far less willing to produce separate reports than their overseas competitors, with 28 per cent taking the

trouble to conduct a separate check.

US companies emerged as the most vigilant, with an average 43 per cent producing separate reports.

By sector, 75 per cent of chemical companies produced a separate report, but this level fell below 15 per cent for food, construction and financial services companies.

However, only 15 companies set quantifiable targets of environmental standards and only 16 provided shareholders with the results of previous environmental reports to allow progress comparison.

Companies are no longer content with assurances that the report is "printed on recycled paper," the report continued, instead volunteering the percentage of waste in the report's paper and that the pulp has been responsibly farmed.

KPMG said: "The irony is that a number of these assertions appear on 40-plus page documents with lengthy print runs that use up large amounts of paper, chemicals and energy."



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Keep our opinions
to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

High school reunion?
Guess you'll be taking the company car along.

Delay of the euro project now looks a very good bet. So why are the markets so sanguine? And if it is not market pressure, what will bring about the project's demise?

Despite the superficial impression of inimitable Franco-German will conquering all, there has always been a serious problem lurking just beneath the surface. Whereas the Germans conceived the euro as a pseudo-mark, the French conception was exactly the opposite. The euro was to be broad and weak. Its very purpose was to enable Europe — and in particular France — to escape from tutelage to the mark and to permit the pursuit of a growth-oriented monetary policy.

Germany and France were like a betrothed couple who want completely different things from marriage, but who are able to avoid facing the truth by concentrating on the arrangements for the wedding. Their incompatibility was disguised by the preparedness of

Who will say the emperor has no clothes?

the last French Government to go along with the German conception in public, and the preparedness of Helmut Kohl to give succour, in private, to the idea that in the end the project would be pushed through even if it was not quite on the hand German terms.

Events of the past few weeks have blown this arrangement apart. The Socialist victory in France has brought in a government publicly committed to the French view of the euro. Simultaneously, the position of the German Government has been weakened that it can no longer be expected to carry the day with the German public if the euro can only go ahead on French terms. The left has recently won elections in Italy, the US, Britain and France. Surely the left cannot be held off in Germany if an unpopular policy,

namely monetary union, is pushed through.

The dispute over the Bundesbank's gold has only made this worse, not least by exposing to the German people the lengths to which the Government was prepared to go to keep the euro on the rails. Theo Waigel may have backed down and handed the gold to the Rhinelanders earlier than the plot of Wagner's Ring allows, but the curse on the gold may still bring about the destruction of Chancellor Kohl's "European House".

For at just the time that the French need the Germans to be flexible they are constrained to be rigid, and at just the time that the Germans need the French to stick to agreed disciplines, they are now set to kick over the traces. In 1992, perceiving that the



ROGER BOOTLE

ERM parties were unsustainable for Britain, Italy and Spain, the markets forced them to devalue or withdraw. What stops them from killing off EMU now by launching a similar speculative attack? They may yet do exactly that. After all, in 1992 it took some time for the markets to translate logic into

effective speculative action. But somehow I doubt it. The markets are still mesmerised by the argument about political will. The message of the French election seemed to be that for the euro to go ahead it would have to be broad and soft. So the markets have concluded that it will be broad and soft. Accordingly, far from picking off the weaker members of the convoy, as happened in 1992, there has been reason to buy lire, pesetas and escudos.

They could sell the franc against the mark, and a sharp fall in this rate would scupper the whole project. But the franc is not obviously overvalued against the mark, nor is the French economy out of phase with Germany's.

Arguably, speculators should sell the whole European block and buy safe-haven currencies. But

which? The dollar and the pound are already looking much too high, while there are serious inhibitions regarding Japanese assets. In any case, if the euro is to be weak, we are talking about events years into the future. Is this a basis for selling currencies today?

History does not repeat itself exactly. Whereas in 1992 the markets took the lead and forced politicians to take note, this time I suspect that it will be the politicians who lead the way by announcing a delay to EMU. But what reason could they give? They could simply plead failure to meet the Maastricht criteria, but this would be humiliating, particularly for Germany. Perhaps they could drop hints to the markets and hope that they would again present a fait accompli. Yet this would show Europe's political leaders as mere

corks tossed around on the markets' stormy seas.

I have an alternative, face-saving suggestion. Blame it on the computers. It is not clear that the Target settlement system will operate smoothly in time. Meanwhile, the computer software industry is fully taken up with the problems presented by the millennium timebomb and spokesmen gave warning last week that it may not simultaneously be able to cope with the problems thrown up by monetary union.

This is how it would work. Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac call a press conference and issue a joint statement. "We are absolutely committed to the euro. No one should be in any doubt that it will happen. But precisely because the euro is so important it is vital that it should be set up properly. Due to technical circumstances completely beyond our control, it is impossible for EMU to proceed safely in 1999. Then the fun and games would start."

Regulator could force Railtrack to make changes

By CARL MORTIMER

RAILTRACK'S lucrative performance payments could soon come under attack from both the Rail Regulator and train operators under little-known provisions of the track access agreements.

John Swift, Railtrack's regulator, who last week criticised the company for costing the industry too much and for failing to meet its investment obligations, has extraordinary powers that could be used to deliver mid-term changes to the regulatory regime.

Industry experts point to the sweeping and unilateral power the regulator has under the Track Access Conditions, the rules that govern operations between Railtrack and the train operators. If the regulator reasonably believes change is necessary, he is entitled to alter any aspect of the conditions, including the network, timetabling or even investment spending.

Certain train operating companies (TOCs) are believed to be considering private challenges to the performance regime, which benefited Railtrack by £87 million. The incentive regime rewards Railtrack to the extent that it reduces train delays and is governed by private contracts between Railtrack and the TOCs. Certain TOCs are said to be furious that the targets are too low.

However, they may have a remedy as the contracts provide for arbitration in the event that a TOC seeks a change to its access rights that is refused by Railtrack. Experts believe that the wording



John Swift has range of regulatory powers available

is sufficiently wide to permit a TOC to challenge the performance regime.

Mr Swift has considerable powers to influence the arbitration. He has ultimate authority in approving the arbitrator's decision and sets the criteria on which the arbitrator's decision is made. He is unlikely to move immediately to unilateral action but will put pressure on Railtrack to accept big changes on completion of the early review of the company, which he kicked off last Thursday. Mr Swift is discussing a licence modification that would give the regulator more influence

over Railtrack's investment programme.

Chris Bolt, director of economic regulation at the Office of Rail Regulation, said the regulator would look at the overall performance regime. "If we feel the balance is wrong, we can suggest how we wish to change it. It would be open to Railtrack to accept change and avoid a difficult review in 2001."

However, Mr Swift has no need to wait to 2001. If Railtrack refuses to budge, he can refer the matter to the MMC to determine whether the licence changes are in the public interest.

Internet puts billions of pounds of tax at risk

By ROBERT BRUCE

THE Inland Revenue has been warned that it risks the loss of billions of pounds of tax because of the growth of international computer trading.

The problems were highlighted by John Andrews, president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, at a weekend conference. He urged early action and said the institute was willing to help the Inland Revenue to identify measures to curb the potential losses.

Mr Andrews highlighted the threat to tax revenues as the Internet and other methods of electronic trading took off. As an example, he said a loss of personal taxation could occur when

software was bought over the Internet from a tax haven, such as Bermuda, thus avoiding VAT. And, he said, commodities could be bought and sold in cyberspace to avoid corporation tax.

Future tax revenues, Mr Andrews suggested, could be siphoned off to other countries or not paid at all. It could make the Inland Revenue's "spend to save" initiative to raise £7 billion fighting tax avoidance look like a drop in the ocean.

Mr Andrews said that the Government, the Revenue and taxation professionals must anticipate what was likely to happen in order to avoid a massive leakage of tax.

LCR invites £800m bids for tunnel work

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

LONDON & Continental Railways, the company that is to develop the Channel Tunnel rail link, is inviting tenders for £800 million of tunnelling work.

It has already received the first bid for the largest contract, the £300 million station box in Stratford, east London, and the ten-kilometre twin tunnels between Ilington and Barking. LCR expects to announce the first contractor for the main tunnelling work by the end of the summer.

Preparatory engineering work has now finally started on the 68-mile rail link, which has suffered long delays because of disputes over the route.

Union Railways, a division of LCR, has begun work near Gravesend in Kent that will divert utility cables under the A2 trunk road, thus clearing the area for the rail link. This should enable construction to commence next year.

Adam Mills, LCR's chief executive, said the link should cut journey times to Paris and Brussels by 35 minutes, and will also shorten commuter travelling times.

LCR is owned by a consortium that includes Virgin, National Express Group, SBC Warburg and London Electricity. It won the contract to build the rail link and run the Eurostar train service last year.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

TENNY

(a) Or tenné. Tawny as a heraldic colour. Various shades of orange-brown or bright chestnut. In engraving represented by diagonal lines from sinister to dexter, crossed by others, according to some authors, vertically, according to others, horizontally. From the obsolete French *tenné*, a variant of *tanné*, tawny. "The Fess Tenny which is a cooler brooking doubt & suspicion."

UNCAUTIOUS

(b) Incautious, unwary. Evelyn, *Numism*, 1697: "Those of Savoy, Switzerland, and many parts of Germany, which abound in Foxes, etc. are the dullest, simplest, and most incautious of all their Neighbours."

UPANISHAD

(c) In Sanskrit literature, one or other of various speculative treatises chiefly dealing with the Deity, creation, and existence, and forming a division of the Vedic literature. From the Sanskrit *upa* near to + *ni-shad* to sit or lie down. "Dāra became a student of Sanskrit, and translated the Upanishads into Persian in the year 1657."

TROCO

(d) A kind of primitive lawn-billiards, apparently altered from the Italian "trucco" a billiard-board, also the play at billiards (Florio, 1611). "Troco, an old English game revived, formerly known as lawn-billiards. It is played on a lawn with wooden balls and a cue ending in a spoon-shaped iron projection."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rf2! 2 Qx2! (2 Rxe2 Qx2 checkmate) 2... Qh5 checkmate

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6275 (-0.0100)
German mark 2.8143 (+0.0230)
Exchange index 99.6 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2983.5 (+12.0)
FTSE 100 4645.0 (+23.7)
New York Dow Jones 7435.78 (+104.74)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 20485.75 (+416.94)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.22	2.07
Austria Sch	20.72	18.17
Belgium F	60.97	56.39
Canada \$	2.359	2.184
Cyprus Cyp	0.878	0.811
Denmark Kr	11.25	10.42
Finland Mk	8.86	8.26
France F	9.82	9.29
Germany DM	2.97	2.74
Greece Dr	473	436
Hong Kong \$	13.90	12.17
Iceland	127	107
Ireland P	1.14	1.06
Israel Sh	0.97	0.92
Italy Lira	2830	2708
Japan Yen	201.80	185.40
Malta	0.850	0.804
Netherlands Gld	3.344	3.068
New Zealand \$	2.51	2.28
Norway Kr	12.21	11.53
Portugal Esc	205.50	275.00
S Africa Rd	7.96	7.46
Spain Pta	246.50	231.00
Sweden Kr	13.37	12.34
Switzerland F	2.50	2.30
Turkey Lira	241600	225275
USA \$	1.720	1.587

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

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Magical makeovers and pottering about

The makeover has become a staple part of daytime television. Take an ordinary person — a plain, down-trodden one — apply the skills of fashion editor and make-up artist and you have a new person. Ordinary person becomes glamorous, immortal being. The studio audience cheers and we think: "I'd like a makeover." Transformation television is addictive.

Now, however, makeovers have made it to mainstream drama, resulting in large numbers of actresses of a certain age joggling through the countryside with cushions strapped to their hips and standstills. At the appropriate moment the director shouts "cut", the are, and the panting woman who staggered through episodes one and two suddenly becomes a slim and lovely sex goddess. This being drama, there is no studio audience to cheer, so the husband has to do

a lot of open-mouthed "what the?" acting.

Billie Whitelaw has already been through her transformation in *Born to Run* (BBC1) and is being closely followed by Marian McLaughlin, who plays the definitively down-trodden Bron. Last night Bron completed her first five-mile road race and, with the help of the faithful Eddie (John McAvoy), is thinking of stepping up to eight. In *The Man Who Made Husbands Jealous* (ITV, Friday) Marigold (Gilly Coman) discovered that six miles would probably do — as long as the fair Lysander (Stephen Billington) was around to check her aerobic capacity every now and again.

What the two series have in common — apart from a lot of new lingerie — is the idea that through this transformation comes empowerment. The slimmed-down Marigold can choose whether she stays with her errant husband (Nicholas

Balli, while the newly rapacious Lili (Whitelaw), who at 65 has just discovered orgasms, can turn the tables on her ghoulish husband, Burke (Terence Rigby). Last night he emerged from his coma, but already he has the look of a man who wishes he hadn't.

But what, predictably, separates the two series is the difference in which this common point is made. With the ITV adaptation staying devotedly loyal to both the letter and the spirit of Jilly Cooper's novel, any serious points are enjoyably obscured by bosoms, dogs and a male cat prettier than its women. Which is why it's heaven-sent for weary Friday nights.

Debbie Horsfield, however, the writer of *Born to Run*, has Sunday nights and a five-star cast to work with. With the latter she enjoys a symbiotic relationship: she creates wonderful characters and dia-

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

logue for them and they rescue her on the rare occasions when her familiar brand of stylised humour threatens to become strained.

Last night she tossed in a further delicious complication by making Judith (Linda Henry) pregnant. So, while Byron's wife and mother shed pounds and gained admirers, his mistress (symbolically a keep-fit fanatic) was bravely facing up to a future of stretch-marks and

varicose veins. Transformation, you see, works both ways: one way it's a miracle, the other it's life. As the doomed Byron (Keith Allen) put it: "We didn't start off wearing wino-cyene and Y-fronts, you know."

Juliet Stevenson is an actress blessed with an inbuilt makeover machine. One second she is the plainest Jane — or in this case Jean — you've ever seen, the next, almost breathtakingly beautiful, that said, there were precious few of the latter moments in *Stone, Scissors, Paper* (BBC2, Saturday) with Stevenson even inventing a special down-trodden shuffle for the dowdy Jean, a woman trying to escape from a violent husband but fared not find to happiness with the superficially nicer Redfern (Ken Stott). Well, what do you expect on BBC2 — happy endings?

Richard Cameron won the BBC Dennis Potter Film of the Year Award for his screenplay, but it

was impossible to know whether this was because he had deliberately inserted one or two Potterisms to help the judges to reach a decision or whether these were inserted later as acknowledgement that there is influence after death.

Had he lived longer, Potter may well have got round to using *The Yellow Ribbon* in one of his own musical-punctuated productions. But even if he hadn't, he'd have enjoyed the creative use of *Half-way to Paradise*, *I Got You Babe*, and *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* (the order, you appreciate, is crucial): recognised the power of Hannah, the stroke victim who heard and knew everything but could say nothing, and probably sued over the final shot. As Redfern sat in the wood, sorting through a box of childhood memories, a camera mounted on a crane soared into the air, breaking through the leafy tree

canopy to reveal the bend of a river far below. As John Kenner's beautiful music began, I swear I heard the sound of a detective singing. Stevenson's Ston (Juliet Stevenson) as Jean and Redfern the latter who really should have been at home with his wife), while Cameron's screenplay was an absorbing exploration of guilt and misunderstanding, marred only slightly by an over-leisurely pace and one plot device (Redfern mistakenly confessing his obsession to a friend who actually knew nothing about it) which has become rather commonplace.

Finally, the initially excellent and still very promising *Jonathan Creek* (BBC1, Saturday) signed off with an episode suffering from an excess of comedians (Alan Davies and Caroline Quentin are sufficient), an abundance of house-trained primates and a surfeit of laboured humour. Restraint might be needed for series two.

6.00am Business Breakfast (77731)

6.25 BBC Breakfast News (99499)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5695844)
9.30 Cheegs' Challenge (3714828)
9.45 Kilroy (6244335)

10.25 Who's Doing the Pudding? The team prepares a sumptuous meal using ingredients found on the supermarket shelves (5343016)

10.45 News (T) and weather (5772656)
10.50 Programme rescheduling to be announced today as a result of yesterday's early result in the cricket Test at Edgbaston.

12.35pm Neighbours (T) (4552422)
1.00 News (T) and weather (55248)
1.30 Regional News (15916793)

1.40 Programme rescheduling to be announced today as a result of yesterday's early result in the cricket Test at Edgbaston.

4.00 Popeye (582575) 4.10 Casper (571538) 4.35 50/50 (5147002) 5.00 Newsround (8869915) 5.10 Blue Peter (732118)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (539151)
5.50 News (T) and weather (538)
6.30 Regional News (118)

7.30 Big Break Jim Davidson hosts the hot-potting snooker game, with guests Alex Hunkin, Higgins, Ray Reardon and David Roe demonstrating their skills on the green baize (T) (7054)

7.30 Mashed! Mashed! Four fearless contestants take the black chair to answer questions on Formula One since 1970, the life and works of Roald Dahl, anorexia nervosa and the Russian revolutions of 1917. Quizmaster Magnus Magnusson hosts the first of 13 programmes in the first series of The Great Hall at Blenheim Palace (T) (642)

8.00 EastEnders Mark makes a decision about his future, while Lorraine is surprised to find certain matters being taken out of her hands altogether (T) (6712)

8.30 The Peter Principle (2/6) The bank launches a new staff health initiative, to the alarm of Peter. Comedy, with Jim Broadbent and Claire Skinner (T) (5347)

9.00 News (T) and weather (4199)
9.30 Birds of a Feather The waiting is over for Tracy as the new diary is released from prison (T) (55847)

10.00 Panorama: Yesterday's Men Charing the events which led to the Tories worst election defeat since 1832 (T) (931625)

10.40 Stephen King's It Two-part adaptation of the bestselling novel about seven friends forced into a terrifying confrontation with a supernatural evil. With Tim Curry, Richard Thomas, John Ritter and Olivia Hussey. Concludes on Wednesday (T) (661644)

12.15pm Billy Two Hats (1973) Bizarre western, focusing on the friendship that develops between elderly Scottish crook, Gregory Peck, and young half-breed Indian, David Aronson, as they prepare to rob a bank together. Directed by Ted Kotcheff (330316)

1.50 Weather (5872768)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a programme. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

12.30am Learning Zone: O.U. Scientific Community (1973) (905433) 95-103, 1.00 Santo Spirito (96749) 1.30 Matisse and the Problem of Expression (35126) 2.00 Teaching Today (89107) 4.00 Italia 2000 (55565) 4.30 Royal Institute Discourse (33132) 5.30 RCN Nursing Update (46671)

5.00am O.U. A Hard Act to Follow (3483354)

5.25 The Wife to Choose (T) (3402369)
5.50 A University Without Walls (7403118) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) (1112199)

7.30 Teenage Turtles (T) (T) (6020753) 7.55 Blue Peter (T) (2213354) 8.20 Dump (T) (8255441) 8.25 Open a Door (T) (1589655) 8.55 Racoon (T) (8262107)

9.00 TVS (26847) 9.30 Job Job (4382657) 9.45 Watch Out (4377422) 10.00 Teletubbies (T) (27151) 10.30 The Geography Programme (9148834) 10.50 Look and Read Special (1881118) 11.10 Zag Zag (5476170) 11.30 Marsalis on Music (7663268)

12.35pm Schedule to be changed after early cricket result yesterday.

1.00 Lifeschool Extra (23329248) 1.25 Landmarks (9007173) 1.45 Storyline (15926170) 2.00 Bump (84482034) 2.05 Open a Door (56332575)

2.10 The Angry Silence (1980) with Richard Attenborough, Michael Craig and Pier Angeli. Gritty drama about the sensational effects on a man's public and private life following his decision not to join his workmates' unofficial strike. Directed by Guy Green (328170)

3.55 News (T) and weather (3294763)
4.00 Schedules to be announced following the early result in the cricket Test yesterday.

6.25 Space Precinct Last in series (T) (567538)

7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show Cult animation (T) (355844)

7.30 Computers Don't Bite: The Beginner's Guide Top Gear's Quentin Wilson gets to grips with the latest laptop computer and navigation software (T) (644)

8.00 Top Gear Motorsport World Rally championship from Argentina (T) (4354)

8.30 Being There An intimate study of winter wildlife (T) (3489)

9.00 The Vicar of Dibley The Songs of Praise crew visits Dibley to record a programme in the village church (T) (3489)

9.30 Tales from the Riverbank Fisherman Chris Yates ponds the lengths some anglers will go to, in order to reel in the carp (T) (53489)

10.00 Game On Matt goes out of his way to make sure Martin's break-up with Clare is as painful as possible (T) (97052)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (908557)

11.15 Cricket Highlights (226825) 11.55 Weather (756008) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (45942)

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6.00am GMTV (5667731)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (3722847)
9.55 Regional News (T) (4409880)
10.00 The Time, the Place (21977)
10.30 This Morning (56853460)

12.20pm Regional News (1885286)
12.30 News (T) and weather (4888847)
12.55 The Pulse (T) (4863538) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (9006809) 1.50 Side Effects (T) (3142064) 2.20 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (1/2) (T) (5433480)

3.20 News (T) (3031644)
3.25 Regional News (3030915)
3.30 Caribou Kitchen (3841002) 3.40 Tots TV (T) (8797083) 3.50 Cartoon Time (329248) 3.55 Where's Wally (T) (T) (7245847) 4.25 Wool (T) (T) (9194489) 4.50 The Big Bang (T) (4624335)

5.10 World of Wonder (T) (8756712)
5.40 News (T) and weather (896793)
5.57 Pollen Count (200688)
5.58 HTV CrimeStoppers (200688)

6.00 Home and Away (T) (344118)
6.25 HTV Weather (863644)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (286)
7.00 Wheel of Fortune (T) (5460)

7.30 Coronation Street Jack makes a final bid to save the Rovers (T) (170)
8.00 World in Action: Profit Before Principle The concluding report on Britain's commercial links with Indonesia's dictatorship (T) (1880)

8.30 Turner Round the World Anthia Turner reports live from a mystery location, where a tip of a lifetime is to be won. With guests Wet Wet Wet (1165)

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10.00 Game On Matt goes out of his way to make sure Martin's break-up with Clare is as painful as possible (T) (97052)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (908557)

11.15 Cricket Highlights (226825) 11.55 Weather (756008) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (45942)

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As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (4863538)
1.50 Blue Healers (5317460)
2.45 Breakaways (2687248)
2.50-3.20 High Road (2653915)
3.20-3.50 Shortland Street (8756712)
3.50-4.00 Central News (338915)
4.10 Film: Strangers (7464983)
4.20 Sound Bites (8322497)
4.30 War of the Worlds (7032720)
4.35 Late and Loud (4885286)
4.40 The Highway Patrol (2756045)
4.50 Film: Thrill Kill (3100381)
4.50 Central Jobfinder '97 (8085213)
5.20 Asian Eye (448938)

5.30 News (T) (3031644)
5.35 Regional News (3030915)
5.40 News (T) and weather (896793)
5.57 Pollen Count (200688)
5.58 HTV CrimeStoppers (200688)

6.00 Home and Away (T) (344118)
6.25 HTV Weather (863644)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (286)
7.00 Wheel of Fortune (T) (5460)

7.30 Coronation Street Jack makes a final bid to save the Rovers (T) (170)
8.00 World in Action: Profit Before Principle The concluding report on Britain's commercial links with Indonesia's dictatorship (T) (1880)

8.30 Turner Round the World Anthia Turner reports live from a mystery location, where a tip of a lifetime is to be won. With guests Wet Wet Wet (1165)

9.00 News (T) and weather (896793)
9.30 Tales from the Riverbank Fisherman Chris Yates ponds the lengths some anglers will go to, in order to reel in the carp (T) (53489)

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